PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

# GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

## Northern light

Rich planting in a cool climate

**SEPTEMBER PALETTE**

the best plants for late summer colour

**Ann-Marie Powell** designs a sloping rural garden

Expert guide to colourful **cosmos**

## Refreshing Ideas

Pools and ponds for outdoor swimming

ALITEX™

GREENHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES

In partnership with

National Trust

Aluminium made beautiful

www.alitex.co.uk 01730 826900

In partnership with

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS Kew

# editor's letter

Late summer has become the new high point in the garden. Long, hot days give way to haziness, and a palette of plants with bold architecture and rich hues moves to the fore.

Whitburgh House in Scotland (page 32) is a garden with an innovative take on contemporary planting ideas, where graphically chunky structure is paired with an incredible medley of perennial plants. Think *Stipa*, kale, *Calendula* and *Cynara* in emerald, aubergine, brilliant blue and burnt orange. The plants thrive under open Scottish skies. It's cool planting in a cool place, created by an Edinburgh patron of the arts.

On page 48, award-winning designer Ann-Marie Powell describes the 'jostling jamboree' of late summer plants that she has used on the sloping site of a West Sussex bolthole. She gives her recommendations for a semi-rural scheme that echoes a wider landscape.

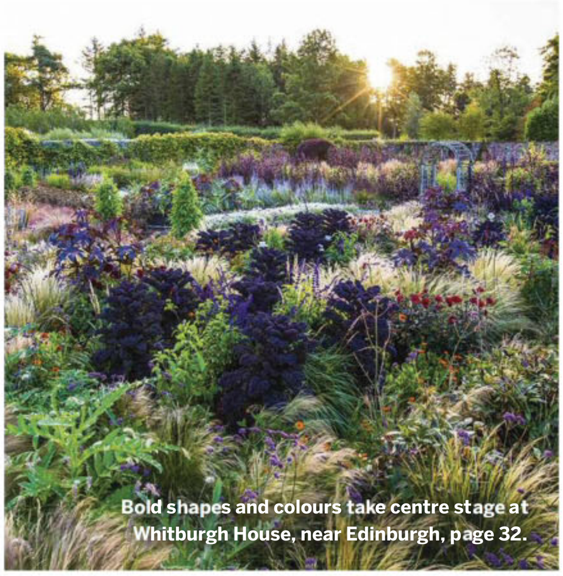
With the dog days of summer very much in mind, our design special – Water in the Garden – explores the best ideas for ponds and natural pools for outdoor swimming. It starts on page 69.

Plus there are wonderful ideas for late-summer pots by head gardener Thomas Unterdorfer on page 42.

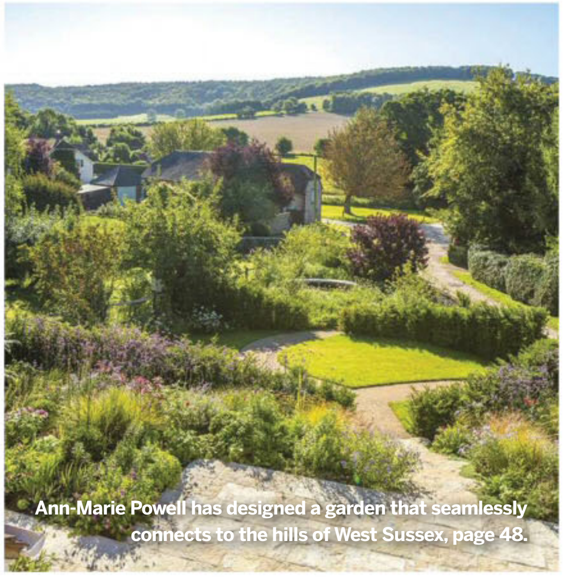
I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR



**Bold shapes and colours take centre stage at Whitburgh House, near Edinburgh, page 32.**



**Ann-Marie Powell has designed a garden that seamlessly connects to the hills of West Sussex, page 48.**

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Northern light

Save money when you **subscribe to the digital edition** – see page 30

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

**FERGUS GARRETT**
Plantsman and head gardener at Great Dixter in East Sussex.

**CAROL KLEIN**
Plantswoman and presenter of BBC *Gardeners' World*.

**DANIEL J HINKLEY**
American plantsman, planthunter, horticultural writer and lecturer.

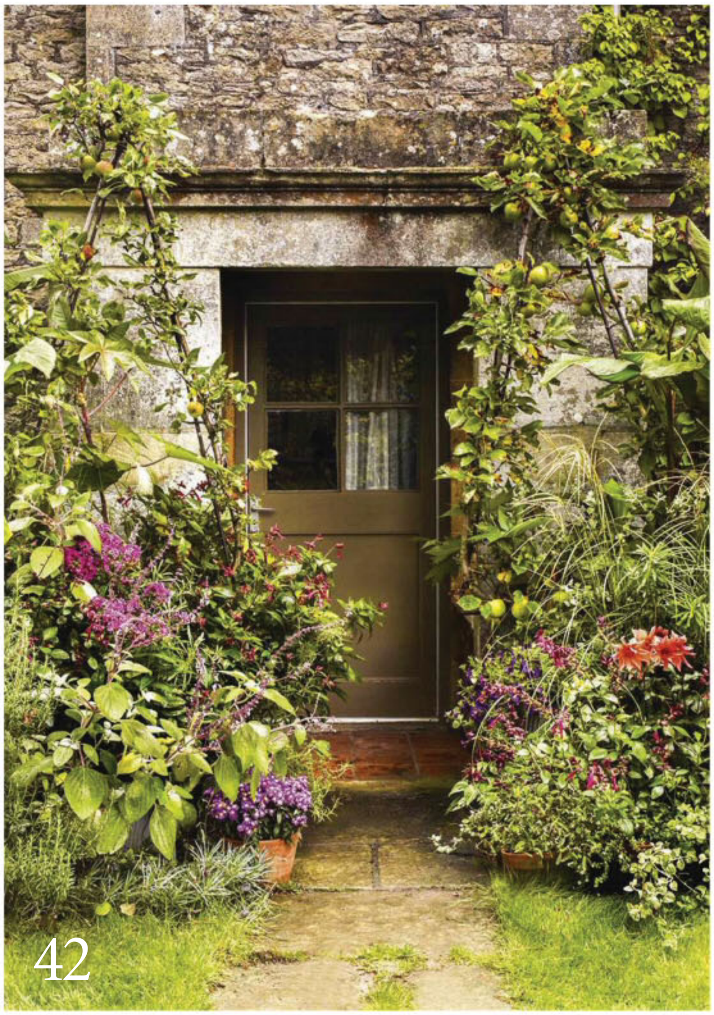
**ALYS FOWLER**
Kew-trained gardener, author and television presenter.

**DAN PEARSON**
Garden designer, plantsman and columnist.

CLAIRE TAKACS, RACHEL WARNE

# contents

SEPTEMBER 2017



## ON THE COVER

**Northern light** page 32
**September plants** page 20
**Ann-Marie Powell garden** page 48
**Cosmos** page 58
**Water special** page 69

**COVER IMAGE**
Whitburgh House
Photograph by
**Claire Takacs**

## Water in the garden

70 **In at the deep end** Designer Bart Hoes has transformed a tricky triangular plot into a stylishly designed pool garden

74 **To gaze on beauty** A garden in France with fabulous planting, wonderful views and a natural pool to match

80 **Reflections on nature** Natural planting reflected in a sleek mirror pool brings the beauty of water into a small space

84 **Eight ideas for pools and ponds** More design ideas for bringing water into the garden

## Plants

20 **Plantsman's favourites** Plants that offer a late-summer glow are on the radar of Malverleys' head gardener Mat Reese's for his September planting schemes

42 **Pots of style** Head gardener Thomas Unterdorfer creates three container displays, including arrangements of pots for a doorway and table

54 **Joys of the black stuff** On a farm near Pontefract, Robert and Heather Copley have reintroduced liquorice growing and are converting a new generation to the sweet root

58 **Plant profile: *Comos*** Graham Rice celebrates a cheerful and colourful annual

## Places

32 **Art of the unexpected** In the walled garden of Whitburgh House in Scotland, owner Elizabeth Salvesen has created a fusion of formal topiary and contemporary planting

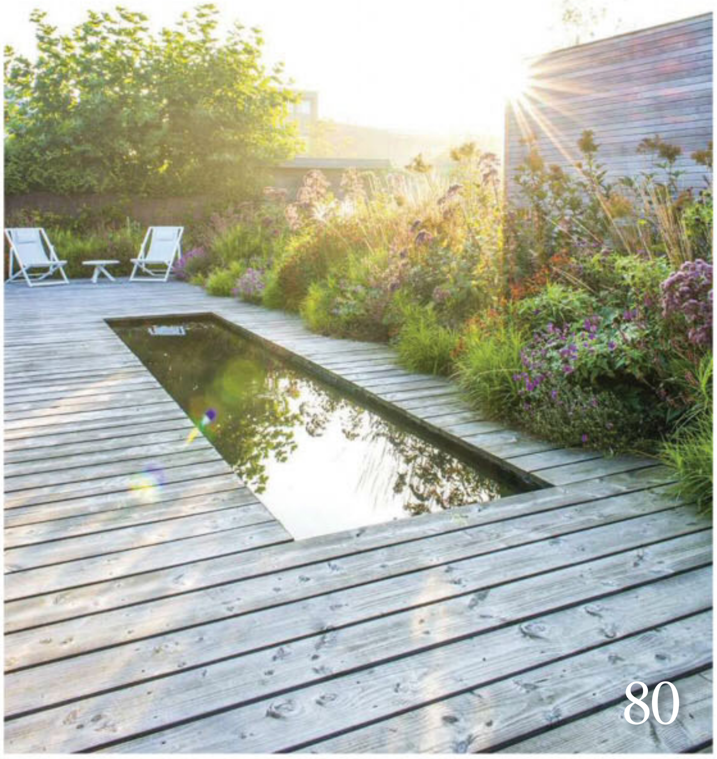
48 **Rising to the challenge** Ann-Marie Powell has transformed a sloping site in West Sussex, seamlessly connecting it to the hills beyond

ANDREW MONTGOMERY, JASON INGRAM

*Subscribe & save*

take out a digital subscription to GARDENS ILLUSTRATED see page 30

54


80

# People

66 **Who's who** Lord Howick has created an internationally respected arboretum in Alnwick, Northumberland, collecting the seeds for it on adventures around the world

114 **Marginal benefits** Frank Ronan toys with the idea of turning his borders into meadow

# Design

87 **Design update** Including news of the new gold medal-winning RHS garden at Wedgwood, plans to update the listed garden at Dartington Hall and must-visit festivals in Italy and France

92 **Design ideas** James Alexander-Sinclair loses himself in the romance of the meadow and offers some practical advice on creating one

97 **Design sourcebook** If you're thinking about a swimming pool, consider an outdoor shower

ANDREW MONTGOMERY, MAAYKE DE RIDDER

# Regulars

3 **Editor's letter**

6 **Contributors**

9 **Dig in** This month: a series of talks at the Hauser & Wirth gallery, plus autumn plant fairs

17 **Kitted out** for gardening and gathering

25 **Gardener cook** Jojo Tulloh finds it harder than expected to give up her allotment

29 **Gardening talent** Meet Danny Wilcockson, gardener at Trentham Estate in Staffordshire, where contemporary meets 'Capability' Brown

30 **Subscription offer** Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated*

99 **Books** Our pick of the new books, including Alys Fowler's *Letters to a Beekeeper*

105 **Crossword and how to buy back issues**

107 **Reader offer** Save £5 on Sarah Raven tulips **

113 **Next issue** What's coming up in October

## Subscriber update

From 17 August 2017 we will be moving our subscriber customer service operations. This will not affect your magazine subscription and you don't need to take any action. From this date your personal data together with any other data relating to your subscription will be held and processed by our trusted partner dsb.net Limited of 3 Queensbridge, The Lakes, Northampton NN4 7BF.

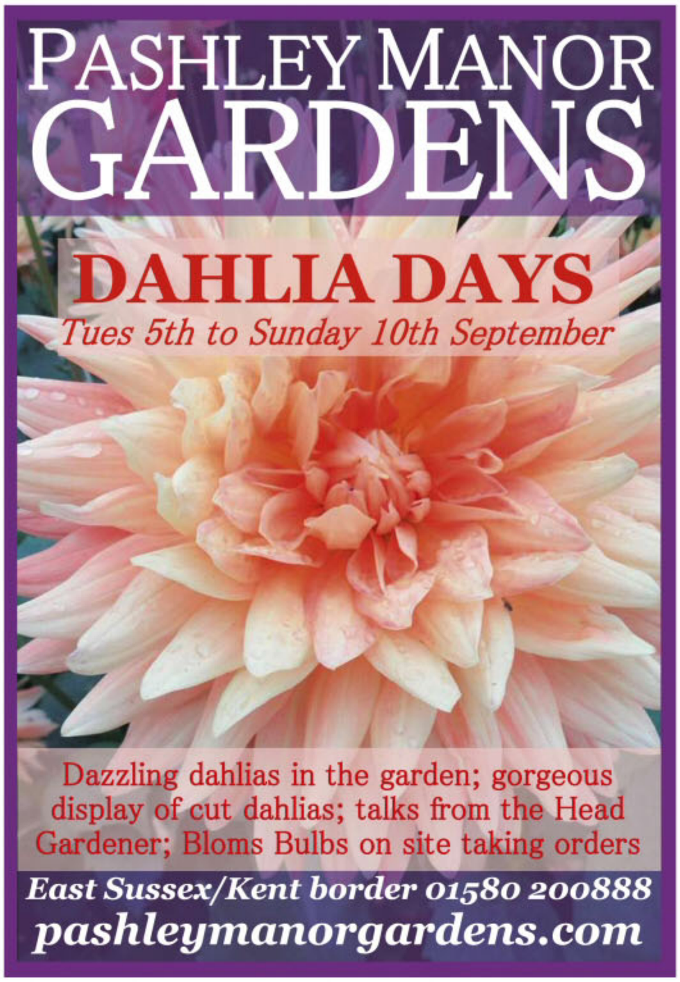
**For more information email:**

gardensillustrated@buysubscriptions.com

**Or visit:**

buysubscriptions.com/customer-services/FAQs

OXFORD PLANTERS
The finest in British outdoor joinery
Garden By Wilson McWilliam Studio
Beautiful hand-crafted hardwood planters, garden structures and hardwood furniture hand made in the Cotswolds
www.oxfordplanters.co.uk info@oxfordplanters.co.uk 01608 683022


PASHLEY MANOR GARDENS
DAHLIA DAYS
Tues 5th to Sunday 10th September
Dazzling dahlias in the garden; gorgeous display of cut dahlias; talks from the Head Gardener; Bloms Bulbs on site taking orders
East Sussex/Kent border 01580 200888
pashleymanorgardens.com

# contributors

## STEPHANIE DONALDSON

Stephanie is a gardener and writer who has spent every spare moment of the past 20 years creating a richly planted hillside garden on the south coast of England. On page 48 she visits a garden on the South Downs to see how Ann-Marie Powell has overcome the challenges of a steeply sloping site.

*"Ann-Marie has transformed a tricky site into a contemporary country garden that flows rhythmically down the hill."*

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

## THOMAS UNTERDORFER

Thomas trained as a gardener in Schoenbrunn, Vienna and Kew. He's worked in private gardens across the UK, and is currently head gardener at Rockcliffe in Gloucestershire. On page 42 he shows us how to create stunning container displays.

*"I love combining plants in containers to create schemes that fit their individual characters and enhance the space they are in."*

## CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Charlie has been shooting horticultural greats for our Who's Who series since the first issue way back in 1993, and you can see this month's shots of Lord Howick on page 66. This month also sees the publication of his new book *Head Gardeners* with the writer Ambra Edwards.

*"Generously tolerant of my lack of knowledge about trees, Lord Howick indulged me with a tour of his fascinating garden."*

## GRAHAM RICE

Graham is a Kew-trained plantsman and author who gardens in Northamptonshire and Pennsylvania. He visited the cosmos trial at RHS Wisley for our plant profile this month and you can find out which of the colourful annuals impressed him most on page 58.

*"Gardeners can be quick to dismiss annuals but seeing the trial of more than 90 cosmos proved what valuable plants they can be."*

# GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES AND BACK ISSUES

☎ **UK** 03330 162114
**USA/CANADA** 1 866 464 8103 (TOLL-FREE)
**REST OF THE WORLD** +44 1604 973722

**UK** gardensillustrated@buysubscriptions.com
buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated
**USA/CANADA** GILcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com
britsubs.com/garden

✉ **UK/REST OF THE WORLD** *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 3320
3 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF.
**USA/CANADA** *Gardens Illustrated*, PO BOX 37495, Boone,
IA 50037-0495 USA.

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

☎ +44 (0)117 314 8817 | heather.golden@immediate.co.uk

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

☎ +44 (0)117 314 7440 | gardens@gardensillustrated.com

✉ *Gardens Illustrated*, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited,
2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

SYNDICATION & LICENSING

*Gardens Illustrated* is available for licensing and syndication.

☎ +44 (0)117 314 8782 | emma.brunt@immediate.co.uk

APP SUPPORT

For App support please visit apps.immediate.co.uk/support

**We abide by IPSO's rules and regulations. To give feedback about our magazines, please visit Immediate.co.uk, email editorialcomplaints@immediate.co.uk or write to Katherine Conlon, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.**

## MAGAZINE CONTACTS

EDITORIAL

| | |
|---|---|
| **Editor** | Lucy Bellamy |
| **Contributing editors** | Alys Fowler, Fergus Garrett, Daniel J Hinkley, Carol Klein and Dan Pearson |
| **Deputy editor** | Sorrel Everton |
| **Art director** | David Grenham |
| **Deputy art editor** | Niki Goss |
| **Production editor** | Juliet Giles |
| **Designer** | Liam McAuley |
| **Staff writer** | Alys Hurn |
| **Botanical adviser** | Dr James Compton |
| **Thanks this issue** | Hilary Brown, Dominique Corlett |

ADVERTISING

| | |
|---|---|
| **Advertising manager** | Heather Golden **0117 314 8817** heather.golden@immediate.co.uk |
| **Senior brand sales executive** | Katie Gibbons **0117 933 8072** katie.gibbons@immediate.co.uk |
| **Brand sales executive** | Olivia Charlesworth **0117 314 8361** olivia.charlesworth@immediate.co.uk |
| **Classified sales executive** | Isabel Higuero **0117 300 8538** isabel.higuero@immediate.co.uk |
| **USA advertising representative** | Kate Buckley buckley@buckleypell.com |
| **Advertising designer** | Matt Gynn |

INSERTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Laurence Robertson** | +353 (0)876 902208 |

CIRCULATION, MARKETING, PRESS & PR

| | |
|---|---|
| **Newstrade manager** | Rob Brock |
| **Subscriptions director** | Jacky Perales-Morris |
| **Direct marketing manager** | Aimee Rhymer |
| **Press officer** | Dom Lobley dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk |

MANAGEMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chief executive officer** | Tom Bureau |
| **Managing director, Bristol** | Andy Marshall |
| **Publisher** | Marie Davies |
| **Publishing assistant** | Rosa Sherwood |

SYNDICATION & LICENSING

| | |
|---|---|
| **Director of licensing and syndication** | Tim Hudson |

PRODUCTION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Production director** | Sarah Powell |
| **Production co-ordinator** | Emily Mounter |

IMMEDIATE MEDIA CO

THIS MAGAZINE IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY IMMEDIATE MEDIA COMPANY BRISTOL

Standard subscription rates: UK £58.50 per annum; Eire and Europe £54.10 for 13 issues; rest of the world £64.95 for 13 issues. Distribution Frontline, Peterborough. US distribution Source IPD/Speedimpex. Email intlquery@seymour.co.uk Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. *Gardens Illustrated* (ISSN 0968-8920) (USPS 015-608) is published 13 times a year (monthly with a Special issue in December) by Immediate Media Company Bristol, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN, UK. Distributed in the US by Circulation Specialists, LLC, 2 Corporate Drive, Ste. 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodical postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495. Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or transparencies are accepted on the understanding that the publishers incur no liability for their storage or return. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and may not be reproduced without permission. The *Gardens Illustrated* cover is printed on 250gsm Respecta Gloss produced in Belgium by Burgo; the china clay filler is supplied from the UK. The Immediate Media Company Limited is working to ensure that all of its paper is sourced from well-managed forests. This magazine can be recycled for use in newspapers and packaging. Please remove any gifts, samples or wrapping and dispose of it at your local collection point. All prices are correct at time of going to press. © Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited 2017. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. ISSN 0968-8920.

recycle

abc Jan-Dec 2016 38,667*
*Combined print and digital sales

LEARN TO BECOME A GARDEN DESIGNER

At the **London College of Garden Design** our aim is to provide **world-class, inspirational garden design training.** Our one year **Garden Design Diploma** was created to enable students to learn from the very best in the profession.

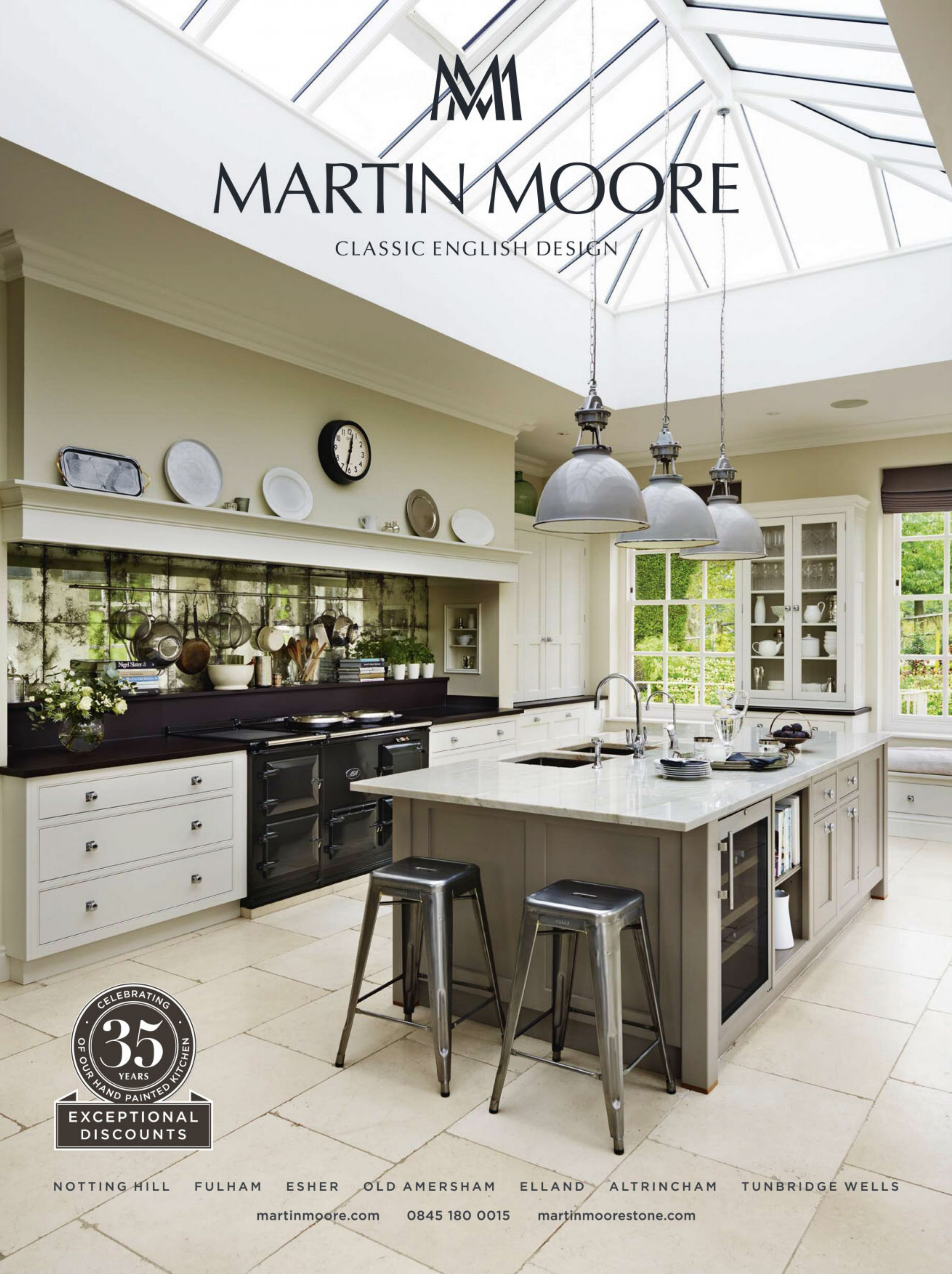
Our students have consistently won the **Society of Garden Designers**' prestigious '**Student of the Year Award**' competition and recent graduates have won medals at RHS Shows.

We now also offer an intensive 6 month **Planting Design Course** delivered by some of the **UK's leading planting design specialists** including Nigel Dunnett, Jo Thompson, James Basson and Rosy Hardy.

With classes at the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** and short courses at **RHS Garden Wisley** and other venues you can be sure to get **inspirational teaching from world-class designers** in the heart of London.

LCGD LONDON COLLEGE OF GARDEN DESIGN

CONTACT US
+44 (0)1483 762955
info@lcgd.org.uk
lcgd.org.uk



MARTIN MOORE
CLASSIC ENGLISH DESIGN

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF OUR HAND PAINTED KITCHEN
EXCEPTIONAL DISCOUNTS

NOTTING HILL FULHAM ESHER OLD AMERSHAM ELLAND ALTRINCHAM TUNBRIDGE WELLS
martinmoore.com 0845 180 0015 martinmoorestone.com

# Dig in

What's happening, where to go, what's in flower and what to buy this month

NEWS COMPILED BY ALYS HURN

JASON INGRAM

TALKS

## The big question

The Hauser & Wirth art gallery in Somerset is hosting a series of exciting gardening talks this month, all based around the question What Are Gardens For? Speakers include florist Shane Connolly, garden design power couple Isabel and Julian Bannerman, and *Gardeners' World* presenter Monty Don, while award-winning garden photographer Jason Ingram will present a plant and garden photography workshop. Events take place throughout September and ticket prices range from £12 to £55. There is also the opportunity to attend the Day of the Garden, a day of talks in the Radic Pavilion on 16 September to celebrate gardening and the natural world. Talks for this event are free, but must be booked in advance. **hauserwirthsomerset.com/events**

## MAKING NATURE

*Learn how to make a silver pendant inspired by botanical forms, including leaves, seeds and pollen, with artist Laura Baxter. 3 September, 10am-4pm. £90. Ducal Estate of Welbeck, Nottinghamshire. Tel 07939 238608,* ***laurabaxter.co.uk***

## Buying bulbs

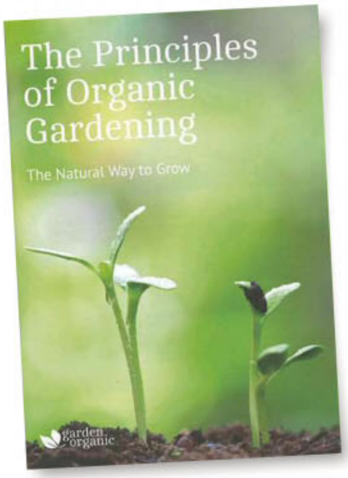
Now is the time to start thinking about what bulbs you want to plant this autumn to get your order in early and ensure favourites don't sell out. For a good selection of rare and historic tulips, visit Jacques Amand (**jacquesamandintl.com**) where the new *T.* 'Flying Dragon', with fiery, orange-red blooms, and a two-toned pink *T.* 'Slawa' caught our eye. Don't miss the *Gardens Illustrated* reader offer on page 107 for £5 off selected Sarah Raven tulip collections.

JASON INGRAM

ORGANIC GUIDE

## Keep it natural

If you've always wanted to grow organically but have been unsure of what natural gardening actually entails, a new guide, *The Principles of Organic Gardening* from Garden Organic, is a good place to start. This manageable booklet sums up the essence of organic gardening in five key principles: building and maintaining soil health; encouraging biodiversity; using resources responsibly; avoiding using harmful chemicals; and maintaining a healthy growing area. Sections of the guide are free to download from the Garden Organic website or you can order the entire booklet online for a recommended donation of £2.50. **gardenorganic.co.uk**



## DAHLIA VASE

*Show off your cut flowers in this large Dartington Crystal Dahlia Flower Jug. Part of Dartington Crystal's award-winning flower bottle range, this stylish vase features a hand-applied dahlia motif designed by Hilary Green and the deep-blue-coloured glass will set off the gorgeous tones of this month's dahlia blooms. £40.* ***dartington.co.uk***

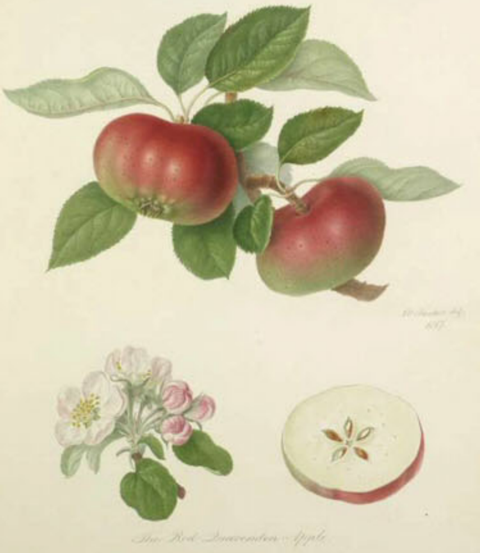
Cuprinol
GARDEN
SHADES
6 YEARS WOOD PROTECTION

Colours inspired by nature
that protect your garden
wood for 6 years.
#mygardenshades

Cuprinol

## Fruitful art

A free exhibition at RHS Lindley Library, *Codlings, Costards and Biffins*, explores the history of apple growing and the variety of crops that once grew in our traditional orchards. Artwork by William Hooker is on display alongside rare books and pomological catalogues. The exhibition runs from 7 September to 10 November and displays will also be at RHS Garden Rosemoor throughout October. **rhs.org.uk**



TOOL MAINTENANCE

## Look sharp

A timely task this month is to sharpen your tools ready for pruning shrubs and cutting back perennials in the autumn. Jake Hobson from Japanese tool supplier, Niwaki, says: "Keeping tools sharp throughout the year is pretty straightforward, it's usually only a lack of routine that interferes. Ideally, sharpen little and often and have an extra session two or three times a year." Visit the *Gardens Illustrated* website for a how-to video from Jake, plus extra tips and techniques. **gardensillustrated.com**

SPECIAL EDITION GIN

## A toast to conservation

Campfire gin

Puddingstone Distillery in Hertfordshire has launched a new gin to support a local wildlife charity. Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust is removing non-native Himalayan balsam to protect river ecosystems under threat from the plant's invasive behaviour. Campfire Gin is using flowers from the removed plants to give the spirit a blush-pink hue. For each bottle sold, the distillery will donate £2 to the Trust to help continue the project. £32 for 50cl. **puddingstonedistillery.com**

# Diary

Don't miss Pia Östlund's two-day nature printing workshop at the Chelsea Physic Garden.

- Plantspersons Course

Sign up for this extensive course with plantsman Jimi Blake to learn the skills to identify, grow, propagate and combine plants. Starts 9 September. One Saturday a month for 12 months, 10am-4pm. €888. Hunting Brook Gardens, Lamb Hill, Blessington, Co Wicklow W91 YK33, Ireland. Tel +353 (0)87 285 6601, huntingbrook.com

- Glyndebourne Open Day

Glyndebourne Opera House opens its gardens this month inviting visitors to explore the extensive grounds and enjoy a picnic on the lawns. 10 September, 11am-4pm. £10. Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5UU. Tel 01273 815000, glyndebourne.com

- Gravetye Manor Tour

Tour the gardens of Gravetye Manor when the flower garden is at its peak, the kitchen garden is fit to bursting with delicious edibles, and the orchard is laden with apples. The tour will be led by head gardener Tom Coward and includes lunch. 20 September, 10.30am. £80. Gravetye Manor, Vowels Lane, West Hoathly, Sussex RH19 4LJ. Tel 01342 810567, gravetyemanor.co.uk

- Nature Printing Workshop

Join designer and printmaker Pia Östlund for a two-day workshop to explore the lost art of nature printing, an ancient technique of representing plants. 28-29 September, 9.30am-4pm. £185. Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HS. Tel 020 7352 5646, chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

- Louis Turpin Exhibition

*Garden Journeys* is a new solo exhibition from garden artist Louis Turpin highlighting his travels around the UK and the gardens he has visited. 9-30 September. Bohun Gallery, 15 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 1AB. Tel 01491 576228, bohungallery.co.uk

- John Lewis Roof Garden

John Lewis is holding a series garden masterclasses on the rooftop of its Oxford Street store – transformed for the summer into a garden with restaurant. Until 24 September, 12pm-9pm (Sun-Wed), 12pm-11pm (Thurs-Sat). The Roof Garden, John Lewis, 300 Oxford Street, London W1C 1DX. johnlewis.com

HIMALAYAN BALSAM GIN / JOSH KUBALE, PIA OSTLUND BY ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Recommended Provider
Which?
Holiday Companies June 2017

# SMALL GROUP TOURS

JULES VERNE
INSPIRING TOURS WORLDWIDE

11/12 nights
from
£2095/
£2125

BIRD-
WATCHERS
TOUR
AVAILABLE

## COSTA RICA

### CENTRAL AMERICA'S GARDEN OF EDEN

- Visit San José, Tortuguero, Sarapiqui, Monteverde, Arenal and the Carara area
- Specialist naturalist guides and eco-friendly hotels
- Special Events – Tortuguero Cruise & Cookery Class

10 nights
from
£1545

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT
*(2018 only,
limited dates/
availability)*

## INDIA

### THE TALE OF THE TIGER

- Staying in Delhi, Agra, Bharatpur, Ranthambore National Park, the 'pink city' of Jaipur and Gurgaon
- Early Booking Offer – SAVE £50
- 2 lunches and 6 dinners included, plus Special Events

© Cape Town Routes Unlimited

14 nights
from
£2795

1 LUNCH &
2 DINNERS
INCLUDED

## SOUTH AFRICA

### CAPE WINELANDS & THE GARDEN ROUTE

- Cape Town, Oudtshoorn, Knysna & the Winelands
- Explore dramatic scenery and enjoy wine tastings
- Special Events – Tea, Dinner & Drumming
- 4-night Victoria Falls extension available

7 nights
from
£1145

NO SINGLE/
LAKE VIEW
SUPPLEMENT
*(7 Oct/ltd. avail.)*

## ITALY

### VILLAS & GARDENS OF THE ITALIAN LAKES

- Discover lakes Como, Maggiore and Lugano
- Stay in an historic hotel on stunning Lake Como
- Special Events – Cruises on Lake Como
- Optional full-day excursion to St. Moritz available

9 nights
from
£1995

NEW
TOUR

## SRI LANKA

### WILD SRI LANKA

- Stay in Negombo, Dambulla, Nuwara Eliya, Wellawaya and Galle
- Enjoy bird and whale watching, and jeep safaris
- 3 lunches and 6 dinners included

4 nights
from
£595

1 LUNCH
INCLUDED

## MADEIRA

### A SLICE OF MADEIRA

- Stay in Funchal with a choice of 4 and 5-star hotels
- Explore valleys, villages & gardens including Quinta do Palheiro & Monte Palace Tropical Gardens
- Special Event – A Taste of Madeira

**020 3811 6240 | vjv.com/illustrated**

WINNER
THE TRAVEL AWARDS 2016
Best Specialist Tour Operator

ATOL PROTECTED 11234

ABTA
ABTA No.V1661

silvertraveladvisor AWARDS
THE BEST IN TRAVEL FOR THE OVER 50S
★ WINNER 2017 ★
BEST CULTURAL TOUR OPERATOR

# Autumn plant fairs

**Autumn is the perfect time to plant shrubs, trees and hardy perennials. Check out our round-up of the best autumn plant festivals for the best choice of plants**

## SEPTEMBER

**The Generous Gardener Autumn Plant Sale**
View an extensive range of unusual plants from leading nurseries, such as Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Special Plants Nursery and Arthur & Strange. 8 September, 10am-2pm. £5. The Coach House, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 5RY. Tel 01285 850256, **thegenerousgardener.co.uk**

Wisley.

**RHS Garden Wisley Flower Show**
This annual flower show celebrates its 25th anniversary with a special six-day event featuring outstanding displays and products from more than 50 specialist nurseries and trade stands. It will also host the annual National Dahlia Society Show, and visitors are invited to enter the RHS People's Dahlia Competition. 5-10 September, 10am-6pm. £12.60. RHS Garden Wisley, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. Tel 01483 224234, **rhs.org.uk/wisley**

Great Dixter.

**Helmingham Hall Autumn Plant Fair with Artisan Market**
Specialist nurseries and local National Plant Collections, plus advice on wildlife conservation in your garden and artisan foods and crafts. Visitors can book on to a tour of the gardens with Lady Xa Tollemache. 17 September, 10am-4pm. £7. Helmingham Hall Gardens, Helmingham, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 6EF. Tel 01473 890799, **helmingham.com**

**Autumn Festival of Plants**
The Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard welcomes the best nurseries in France and Europe for Fête des Plantes, a weekend of amazing plant displays, expert advice, creative workshops and seasonal produce. 22-24 September, 10am-6pm. €14. Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard, Rue du Château, 91940 Saint-Jean de Beauregard, France. Tel +33 (0)1 60 12 00 01, **domsaintjeanbeauregard.com**

## OCTOBER

**Arley Hall & Gardens Autumn Plant Fair**
Get advice on the best plants for your garden. 1 October, 10am-4pm. £1. Arley Hall & Gardens, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6NA. Tel 01565 777353, **arleyhallandgardens.com**

**Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair**
Seasonal plants to admire and buy from specialist nurseries from the UK and Europe. 7- 8 October, 11am-4pm. £9. Great Dixter House and Gardens, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 254048, **greatdixter.co.uk**

Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard.

**Les Journées des Plantes at Chantilly**
France's biggest flower show takes place in the stunning parkland of Domaine de Chantilly near Paris. The weekend is a showcase of high-quality plants, floral displays, demonstrations and specialist talks. 13-15 October. €17. Domaine de Chantilly, Rue du Connétable, 60500 Chantilly, France. Tel +33 (0)3 44 27 31 80, **domainedechantilly.com**

**RHS London Shades of Autumn**
Contemporary planting ideas and garden inspiration, plus creative workshops and a programme of talks. 25-26 October, 10am-5pm. £5. RHS Lindley Hall, 80 Vincent Square, Westminster, London SW1P 2PE. Tel 020 7821 3050, **rhs.org.uk**

lights.co.uk
Get through the
dark season safely!
Item No.: 9988024
PHILIPS
Item No.: 7531620
Item No.: 1020502
Item No.: 9619021
10%
Discount*
Voucher Code
UK17-ILL2-10

*redeemable on Lights.co.uk in a single transaction. Not in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Must be entered when placing the order. Can only be used once. All products subject to availability. Residents of the UK and Republic of Ireland only. No cash alternative. Valid until 17th November 2017.

Quality house brand

Free return shipping
(for most parts of the UK)

Service rating 4.8

020 3514 3658

eden project

BRIGHT SPARKS LIGHT UP EDEN

This season at the Eden Project, discover ‘Bright Sparks’, a fiery display of red-hot pokers flourishing on a precipitous slope overlooking Eden’s famous Biomes. There are now 125 different species and cultivars established in this bold area of planting, making it one of the largest collections in Europe. Look out for the vibrant orange *Kniphofia* ‘Nobilis’, and the metre-tall, bronze-yellow *Kniphofia* ‘Dingaan’ (named after a Zulu king) setting the gardens ablaze with colour.

**Eden. Cornwall’s Contemporary Garden**
**Open daily for inspiration and the extraordinary**

**edenproject.com**

The Eden Project connects us with each other and the living world. Reg. charity no. 1093070 (The Eden Trust).

# *Kitted out*

Make light work of gardening and gathering

COMPILED BY ALYS HURN

**Berry Picker,**
£12.95, 0345 605 2505,
worm.co.uk

**Old-fashioned Preserving Jar,**
from £1.99,
020 8247 9300,
clasohlson.com

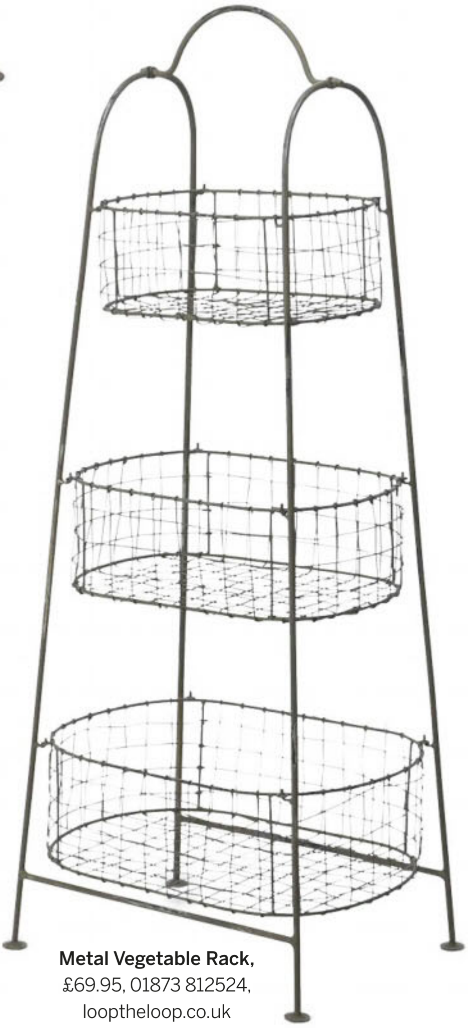
**Small Fire Bowl,**
£99, 0333 400 5200,
toa.st

**Vegetable Brush,**
110kr, +46 (0)8 39 90 93,
irishantverk.se

**De Wit Potato Fork,** £54.99,
01344 578111,
crocus.co.uk

**The Button Vest.**
**$149.99, +1 855 848 3778,**
**kaufmann-mercantile.com**

**Jam Thermometer,**
£6.50, 0345 165 6565,
dunelm.com



**Metal Vegetable Rack,**
£69.95, 01873 812524,
looptheloop.co.uk

SEEDS
Creamore Mill
Seed Envelopes
20 pack
Made in England
SEEDS
Seed type:
Variety:
Date collected:
Notes:

**Pack of 20 Seed Envelopes,**
£4.75, 01326 311388,
willowandstone.co.uk

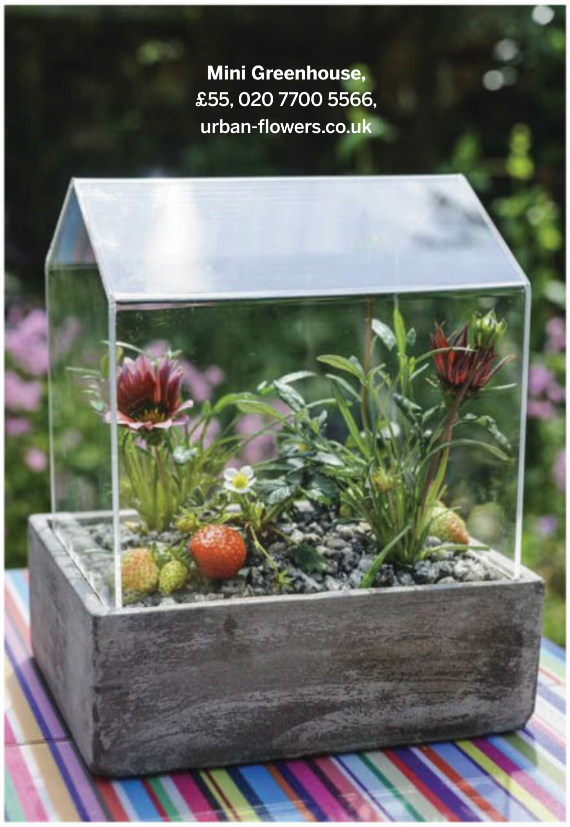
BEE'S KNEES
TRADE
MARK
LUXURY MATCHES

**Matches,**
£6, 01326 311388,
willowandstone.co.uk

**Turn the page** for more products

sting in the tail
Gardener's FOOT RESCUE CREAM
125g
with peppermint oil
sting in the tail
Gardener's RESCUE FOOT CREAM
125g

**Gardener's Foot Rescue Cream,** £9.50, 01993 823117, henandhammock.co.uk



**Mini Greenhouse,** £55, 020 7700 5566, urban-flowers.co.uk

**Hessian Jam Topper Kit,** from £4, 0330 026 1400, hobbycraft.co.uk

**Uashmama Carry Bag dark grey,** £59, thefuturekept.com

**Pruning Shears with Beechwood Handles,** £78, 0800 096 0938, manufactum.co.uk

**Quicker Picker Fruit Picker,** £16.95, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk

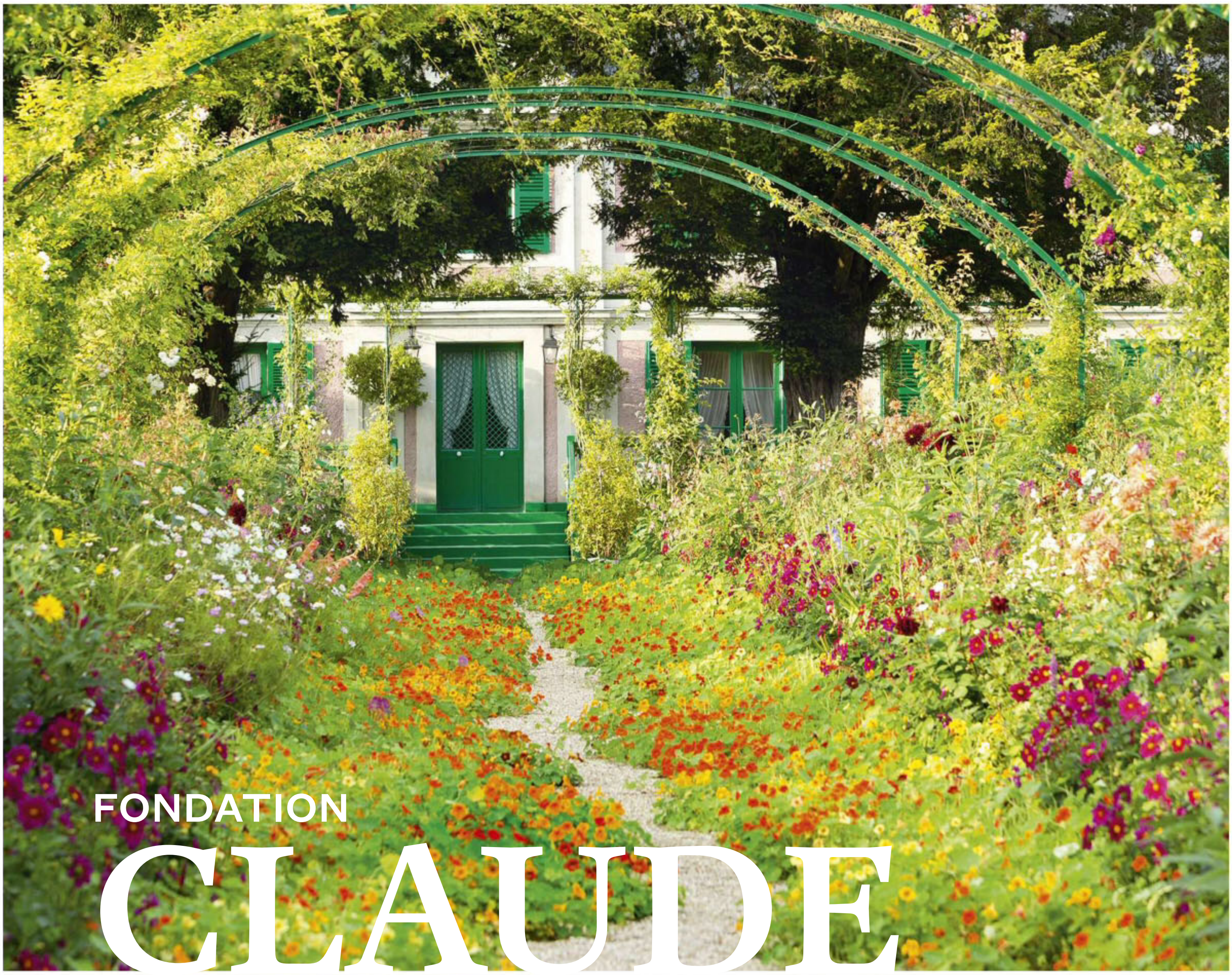
FISKARS Light

**Light Weed Puller,** £34.99, 01782 204141, fiskars.co.uk

**Wooden Foot Scraper,** £109.95, 01993 824148, oxfordbrushcompany.com

**Le Creuset 3-ply Stainless Steel Preserving Pan,** £125, 0800 373792, lecreuset.co.uk

**Bird Netting,** from £17.75 for 5m, 0333 400 1500, harrodhorticultural.com

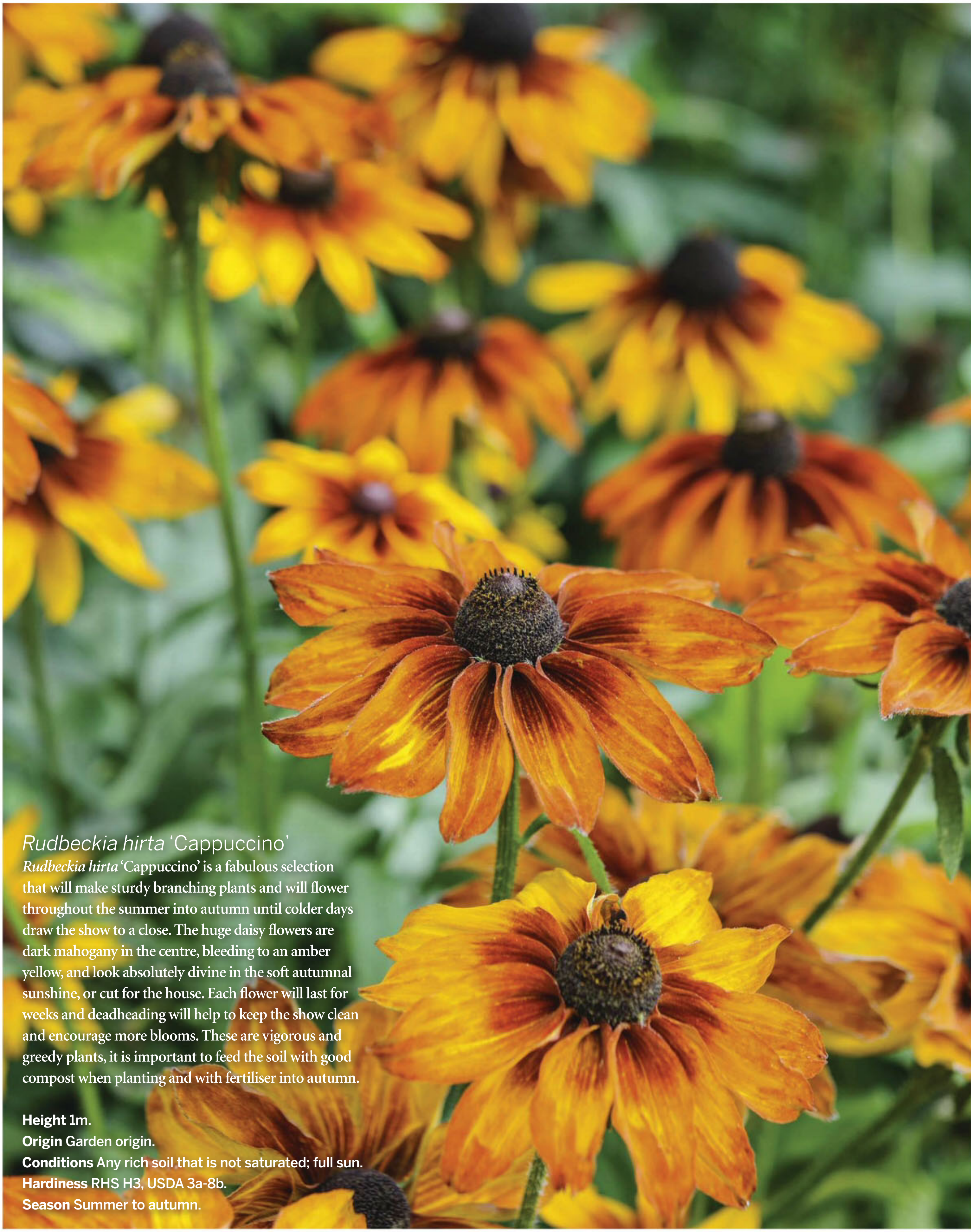


FONDATION
CLAUDE
MONET
AT GIVERNY

The house and gardens

Fondation Claude Monet
Giverny

24TH MARCH > 1ST NOVEMBER
OPEN EVERY DAY — 9:30 am > 6:00 pm
P: +33 (0)2 32 51 28 21 — www.claude-monet-giverny.fr



## *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Cappuccino'

*Rudbeckia hirta* 'Cappuccino' is a fabulous selection that will make sturdy branching plants and will flower throughout the summer into autumn until colder days draw the show to a close. The huge daisy flowers are dark mahogany in the centre, bleeding to an amber yellow, and look absolutely divine in the soft autumnal sunshine, or cut for the house. Each flower will last for weeks and deadheading will help to keep the show clean and encourage more blooms. These are vigorous and greedy plants, it is important to feed the soil with good compost when planting and with fertiliser into autumn.

**Height** 1m.
**Origin** Garden origin.
**Conditions** Any rich soil that is not saturated; full sun.
**Hardiness** RHS H3, USDA 3a-8b.
**Season** Summer to autumn.

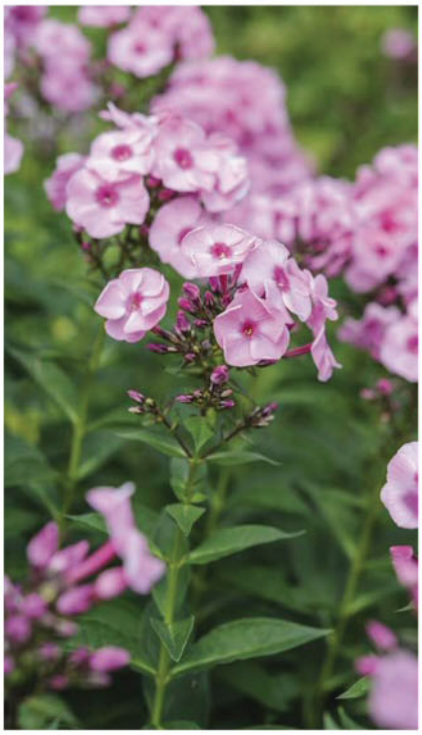
# September plants

Mat mixes up his late-summer borders with some vibrant firecrackers and lush foliage to catch the glow of September's sun

WORDS **MAT REESE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

**Mat Reese**
is head gardener at Malverleys, a private garden in Hampshire.



### *Phlox paniculata* 'Herbstwalzer'

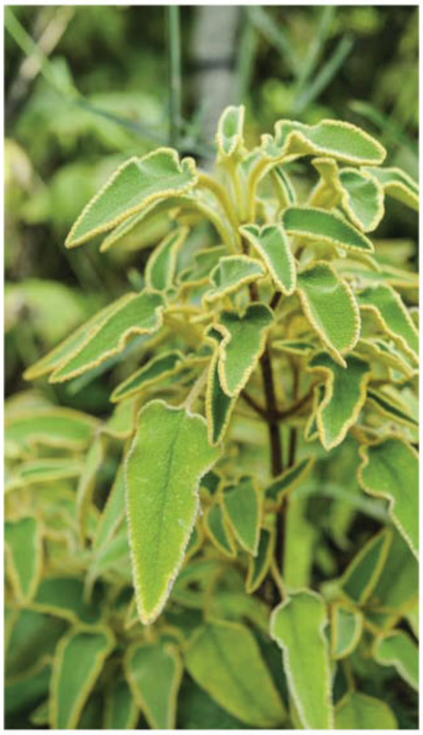
This useful, late-flowering form is at its best in September and it will sometimes continue to bloom into October. It produces large panicles of bold, pink flowers with a darker pink eye on strong stems, and is a useful antidote to the prevailing late-season yellows. Phlox thrive in well-nourished, acidic soil and resent periods of extended drought. In spring, feed the crowns with good compost and protect young shoots from forget-me-nots and the like, as this is the stage that they begrudge competition.

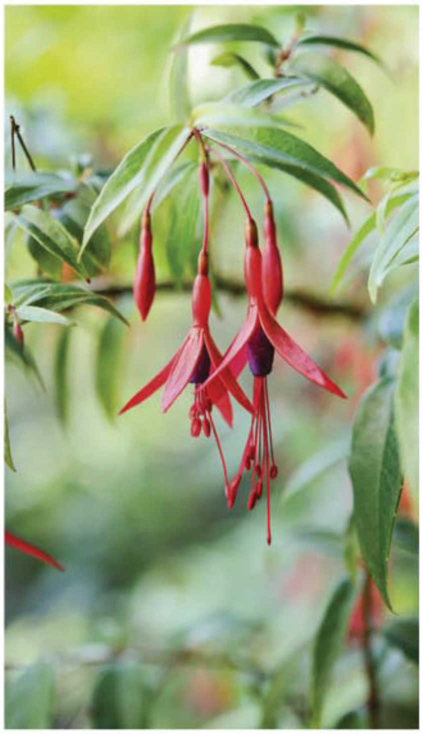
**Height** 1.2m.
**Origin** Garden origin.
**Conditions** A good garden soil and not chalk; full sun to part shade.
**Hardiness** USDA 4a-8b.
**Season** Summer to autumn.

### *Phlomis leucophracta*

I spotted this stunning species quite a few years ago in the garden at Pan Global Plants, but it took several years before I hunted down the seed to Ventnor Botanic Gardens on the Isle of Wight. The remarkable foliage is covered in a thick coating of golden felt, which makes the strongest impression on the margins of the new and slightly corrugated foliage. Growing this plant hard, in full sun on very free-draining soil will encourage the foliage to really colour up and will also keep the plant compact. The flowers are a forgettable brown yellow.

**Height** 1.2m.
**Origin** Turkey.
**Conditions** Best in poor, stony soil; full sun.
**Hardiness** RHS H4, USDA 4a-10b.
**Season** Year round.



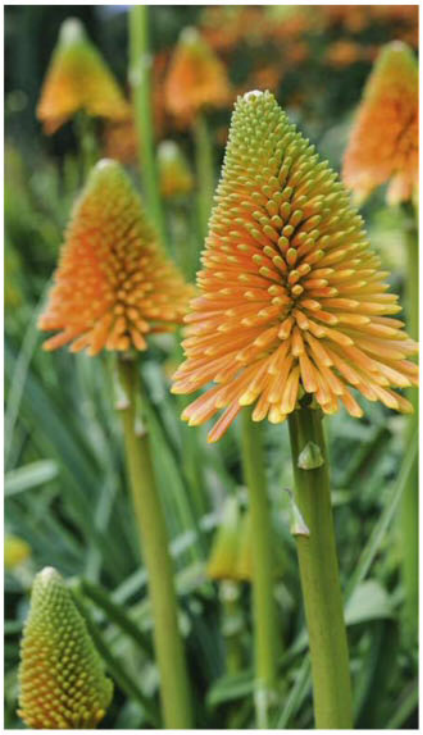


### *Fuchsia hatschbachii*

This graceful fuchsia will make a wonderful, lush shrub for the garden. It has relatively large, glossy green, willow-like leaves and bushy, copper stems. Its hummingbird-pollinated flowers are slimmer than those of *F. magellanica*, but otherwise look similar. The flowers are produced on the tips of the current season's growth. Ideally, plant in a sheltered position and cut back hard in the spring to promote strong, arching shoots that will show off the flowers and foliage to their best. Feed periodically through the summer and treat for capsid bugs to ensure a good display. AGM*.

**Height** 2m.
**Origin** Brazil.
**Conditions** Good soil; sun or part shade.
**Hardiness** RHS H2, USDA 8a-11.
**Season** Summer to autumn.

* Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.



## *Kniphofia rooperi*

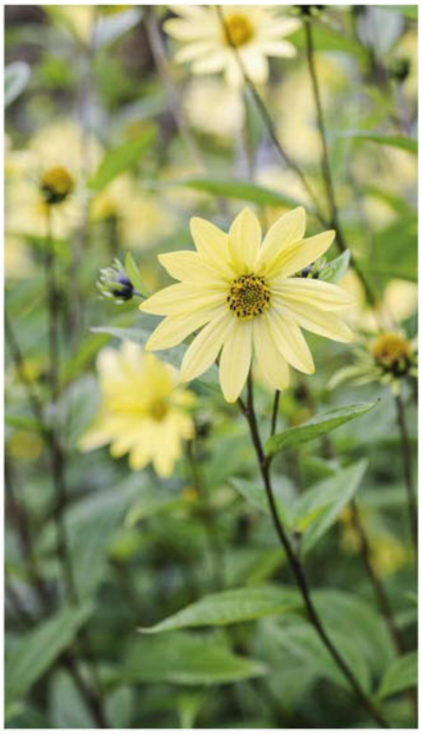
From a huge nest of fresh-green leaves, strong flower spikes, are produced, each bearing a rather fat torch lily flower that is almost as wide as it is long. The flowers start orange-red and age to yellow and are produced well into October creating a magnificent floral full stop to summer. It was used very effectively at Great Dixter when combined with *Cortaderia selloana* 'Pumila', but would work well with grasses or larger, new-world salvias. Position carefully as plants reach nearly a metre wide and resent disturbance. Plant in good soil and tidy the old leaves in spring. AGM.

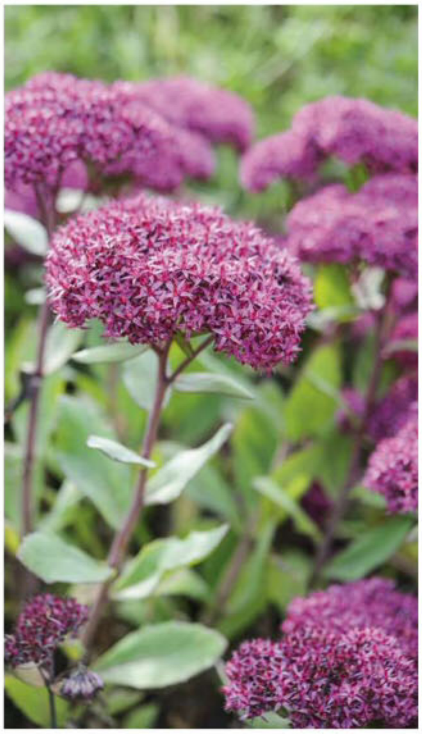
**Height** 2m.
**Origin** South Africa.
**Conditions** Good, rich soil; full sun.
**Hardiness** RHS H5, USDA 7a-10b.
**Season** Late summer to autumn.

## *Helianthus* 'Carine'

Graham Stuart Thomas once commented that he could not write about sunflowers 'with any enthusiasm', and described their brilliant yellows, coarse leaves and need for staking with an air of disdain. He might have changed his mind had this perennial sunflower been around in his day. It's quite different from the ubiquitous mustard yellow flowers of the late season border. The flowers are a lovely shade of soft primrose and are smaller and more numerous than other sunflowers. They are held on dark stems in loose clusters just above the foliage and will not run or require staking.

**Height** 1.4m.
**Origin** Garden origin.
**Conditions** Good rich soil; full sun.
**Hardiness** RHS H6.
**Season** Late summer to autumn.





## *Hylotelephium* 'Mr Goodbud'

I first saw 'Mr Goodbud' at an RHS Wisley sedum trial where it stood out from the crowd. It was compact and hadn't fallen apart like the majority of the taller contenders, and the strong, pink flowers had presence. The flower heads are held in tight clusters, not dissimilar to broccoli, on thick stems above grey-green, succulent foliage. The blooms age to claret and will persist well into autumn. Plant in a sunny aspect in free-draining soil. Protect from slugs, but avoid using pellets – newts and frogs love to bed down among the cold, ice-plant foliage during summer. AGM.

**Height** 45cm.
**Origin** Garden origin.
**Conditions** Well-drained soil; full sun.
**Hardiness** RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b.
**Season** Summer to winter.

## Places to visit

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best

Every gardener should visit the gardens at **Rousham House** at least once. Laid out in the English Landscape style by William Kent, it is a masterpiece that has stood the test of time and is much the same as when created in the 18th century. It still has much to offer gardeners with beautiful walks and vistas leading to the ponds and cascades in Venus Vale, the Praeneste and other delights.

Special Plants Nursery.

ANNA STOWE LANDSCAPES UK / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

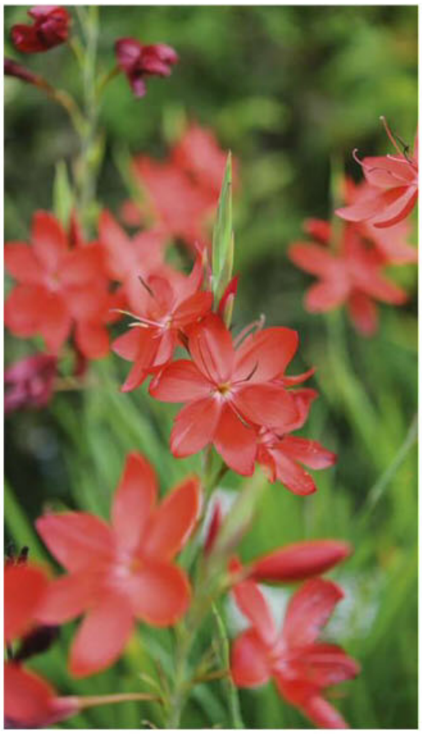
There is also a walled garden, with herbaceous plantings, fruit, a parterre and lovely stone dovecote. Rousham, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX25 4QX. Tel 01869 347110, rousham.org

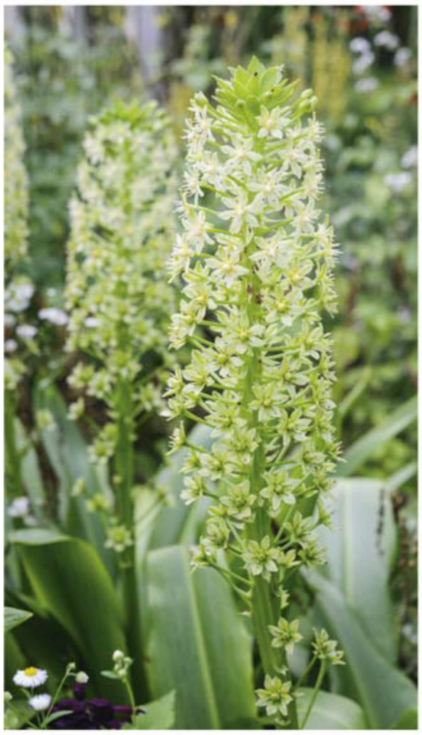
Not far from Bath is **Special Plants Nursery** run by the wonderful plantswoman Derry Watkins, who has accumulated an interesting and diverse collection of really good

### *Hesperantha coccinea* ‘Major’

Star-shaped, clear-red flowers are produced on gladiolus-like stems and held just above the thin, sword-shaped foliage. Crimson flag lilies hail from South Africa, so you might imagine they’re sun-loving, drought-tolerant geophytes. Sun-loving, yes, but they resolutely resent drought and will perform best in moist soils, and can even be used as marginal plants for ponds. They do especially well in Cornish gardens, and the west coast of Scotland. Plant in rich soil and split every couple of years to promote vigour and maintain flower production.

**Height** 50cm.
**Origin** Garden origin.
**Conditions** Good moist soil that doesn’t dry out for long periods; full sun.
**Hardiness** RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.
**Season** Late summer to autumn.





### *Eucomis pallidiflora*

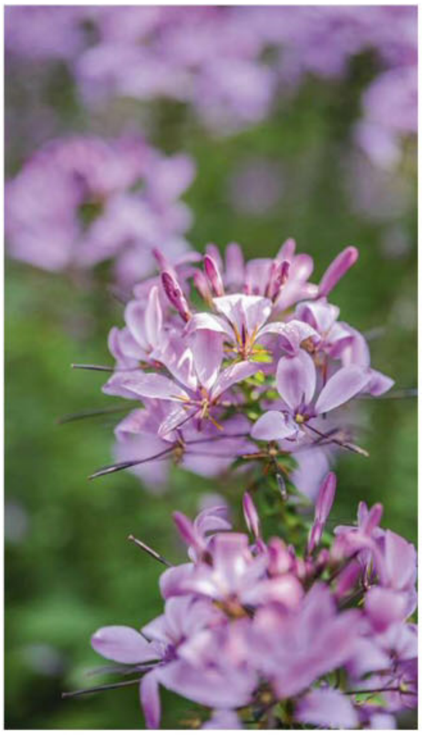
Its large flower columns – composed of small, starry, mother-of-pearl green blooms that culminate in a top-knot of pineapple-like tufts of leaves – shoot up from the centre of large, basal rosettes of long, fleshy leaves. I saw it at Sissinghurst planted with *Hylotelephium spectabile* (then named *Sedum spectabile*) and *Pennisetum alopecuroides*, which was a superb and measured combination of colour, texture and form. The bulbs are massive and should be planted with the nose of the bulb just kissing the surface of improved soil that doesn’t sit too wet during colder months.

**Height** 1.2m.
**Origin** South Africa.
**Conditions** Rich, moist soil; full sun.
**Hardiness** RHS H5, USDA 8a-10b.
**Season** Summer to autumn.

### *Cleome* Señorita Rosalita (=‘Inncleosr’)

A fabulous, dense hybrid with typical spidery, rose-pink flowers and exotic-looking, dark-green, palmate leaves. Usefully, the flowers are sterile, so the energy that would have been spent on seed production goes into making a continuous string of flowers; this one is thornless too. Cleomes do best in a warm, sunny position. Incorporate humus on planting and feed through the growing season as they are hungry plants. It is a lovely alternative to the cosmos, salvias and dahlias normally seen in late-summer bedding.

**Height** 80cm.
**Origin** Garden origin.
**Conditions** Good moist soil; full sun.
**Hardiness** RHS H1b, USDA 9a-10b.
**Season** Summer to autumn.



garden plants. The nursery offers mostly hardy perennials, biennials and annuals but also a fine assortment of tender plants and seeds. Special Plants, Greenways Lane, Cold Ashton, Wiltshire SN14 8LA. Tel 01225 891686, specialplants.net

Although **Great Dixter** looks good pretty much all of the time, it is probably at its best in September when it is doused in a lovely light that is particularly kind to the vibrant displays, and makes the famous Exotic Garden look most wonderful. Throughout the garden bedding and perennials will be in full flower, and it will continue to thrive well into October. Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 252878, greatdixter.co.uk

**Marchants Hardy Plants** is really worth a visit for any gardener and has a fabulous range of plants and wonderful garden. It is managed by plantsman Graham Gough, who has selected many new and unusual perennials, and also has a really extensive collection of grasses, many of which are growing there. Marchants Hardy Plants, 2 Marchants Cottages, Mill Lane, Laughton, East Sussex BN8 6AJ. Tel 01323 811737, marchantshardyplants.co.uk

Marchants Hardy Plants.

JOHN GLOVER / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

# THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR WITH A THOMAS SANDERSON CONSERVATORY VALET

**FREE**
**INTERIOR VALET**
WITH EVERY EXTERIOR VALET*

BEFORE

AFTER

*"The team worked efficiently, fast and with no mess. The final result internally and externally was just what we wanted. Would recommend this company without reservation."*

**The Thomas Sanderson Conservatory Valet will meticulously clean, polish and restore your conservatory to its former glory. Our unbeatable service includes:**

- Removing dirt & algae
- Restoring frames, finials & crestings
- Cleaning, polishing & treating interior windows, roof panels & bars
- Cleaning & clearing guttering & down pipes
- Checking & cleaning drainage slots
- Fitting a leaf guard to prevent future blockages
- Cleaning & lubricating window & door locks
- Also includes our Valet Guard® Service: delivers a deep clean to keep your conservatory looking pristine for longer

* Terms and Conditions apply

For an INSTANT QUOTE simply call

**0800 688 8142** Quote U1117

www.thomas-sanderson.co.uk/cv

ThomasSanderson

Proud members of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

feefo **96%** Service Rating

# IN THE GARDEN

While giving up her allotment proves harder than expected, Jojo looks forward to a new garden that will combine the edible and the decorative

WORDS **JOJO TULLOH** ILLUSTRATIONS **SARAH YOUNG**

When I decided, earlier this year, to return my allotment in October, I had no idea that the time left would go so fast. To make it even harder, this season my plot – like a spurned lover begging for one last chance – has offered me only perfection. Early March sowings of *cime di rapa* (broccoli raab) and 'Little Gem' lettuce gave me flavourful greens in April. Then came tender-ribbed cardoons, which I cooked into stews, and absurdly fat asparagus spears. Later, blackcurrants ripened under scorching skies and made jelly of a deep and zingy flavour. Of my 'Charlotte' potatoes (planted in a rush in March), I was not too hopeful. Without the time to dig trenches, I simply used a trowel to dig a small hole, half-filled it in with well-rotted compost of kitchen peelings, then popped in the chitted potato and topped it with soil. The emerging leaves were knocked back by frost, but by late June I was harvesting bucket loads of perfect golden ovals.

For the past 17 years, I have tended my allotment on organic principles, rotating crops and mulching the soil with manure, seaweed or home-made compost only. There are many perennial crops; currants, artichokes, cardoons, asparagus, as well as apple and plum trees. I've looked after all of them and it's hard not to worry what will happen to both them and the soil when the next plot holder takes over. All this is happening just as our eldest daughter turns 18 and I can't help drawing parallels between the soil I have lovingly enriched for 17 years and the girl now grown. It's an odd, but also liberating feeling, to stand back from people or places you have been so closely involved with and look to see what happens next, hopeful that everything you have put in will see them through.

Next year, my edibles will be grown in much less space, so edges and verticals are my new obsession. As I spend more time looking at this garden over the next few months, I will be thinking about the best combinations for a highly decorative, edible scheme. I want to combine contrasting colours of orache and salad greens, or strong textures and shapes with feathery plants, such as dill, or perhaps intersperse the serrated leaves of oriental greens with onions or leeks. Along the edges I'll grow taller uprights, such as chicory 'Catalogna Gigante Chioggia', from Franchi Seeds (seedsofitaly.com), topped with white ribs and deeply serrated leaves, or Chinese chives. Where beds are level with the brick path, I will plant alpine strawberries, creeping thymes, such as *Thymus serpyllum* 'Snowdrift', and the evergreen herb winter savory, which is sprinkled with tiny, white flowers in summer.

## WHAT TO DO NOW

Any remaining main crop potatoes still in the ground, such as 'Pink Fir Apple', must now be lifted. Choose a dry sunny day. Pick over potatoes and remove and eat straightaway those you have pierced with the fork. Bag up whole potatoes in cloth shopping bags; a coolish shed or cupboard is the best place to store them. Pick chillies as they ripen and either cook them straightaway, or bottle in oil for winter use. Keep an eye on your winter storing pumpkins. If you are worried about them rotting, slip a paper plate (or a circle of cereal-box cardboard) underneath where they touch the soil. Watch the weather and if cold nights threaten, pick your tomatoes green and ripen indoors. Mulch beds with manure or compost to enrich the soil and suppress weeds over winter.

# IN THE KITCHEN

September's kitchen is an uplifting place, and the antidote to those end-of-summer blues

Summer's passing can feel sad, but take heart: the September kitchen is an uplifting place, filled with the reds, yellows and oranges of tomatoes, chillies, corn, peppers, raspberries and sunflowers. The hedgerows too are overflowing with one of my favourite foraged ingredients: blackberries. Stewed apple and blackberry compote is an essential breakfast component, but equally good is this simple preparation that results in blackberries that taste faintly of Turkish delight. Take a bowlful of blackberries and five or six leaves of rose geranium and layer together, with a dusting of sugar. Leave for a few hours, then remove the leaves. You will find the flavour of the blackberries subtly enhanced. If you like the flavour, try adding rose geranium leaves when making apple jelly. I love making corn bread with fresh whole corn kernels, but they are equally good in the baked ricotta dish below. Savoury pudding may sound odd, but eaten alongside a dish of grilled peppers or roasted tomatoes, it makes a great vegetarian main course.

## RECIPES

### Courgette and herb salad

I have a number of ways of dealing with the inevitable excess of courgettes: I grate them and bind them with egg to make fritters; slice them and cook them in frittatas; or fry them and dress them with vinegar and oil. I also cook them whole, either stuffed with herbs and breadcrumbs; or boiled and dressed with lemon and oil. I cut them into sticks, flour them, dip them in batter and fry them; or slice them and cook them in butter and toss them through spaghetti with chives. By September, every single one of these dishes has been eaten too often and a different approach – such as this fresh raw salad (in which lemon juice 'cooks' the courgettes) – is required.

- **4 courgettes (approx 15cm long)**
- **2 lemons**
- **½tsp sea salt**
- **1tbsp fresh mint, chopped**
- **4tbsp fresh parsley, chopped**
- **60ml extra virgin olive oil**
- **1 small bunch rocket**
- **6 sorrel leaves, sliced into ribbons**
- **50g pecorino or parmesan, shaved**

Top, tail and slice the courgettes into very thin ribbons with a mandolin or potato peeler. Dress the courgettes with the juice of one lemon and season with salt. Add the mint and parsley, mix together and leave to soften for 10 minutes. Just before you are about to eat, add the rocket, sorrel and olive oil and toss well. Adjust the seasoning with more lemon juice and salt. Shave over a little hard cheese and serve.

### Savoury sweetcorn pudding

- **3 ears of corn**
- **100ml of milk**
- **3 eggs**
- **250g ricotta**
- **50g grated cheddar**
- **1tbsp chervil, finely chopped (or dill and parsley mixed)**
- **50g fresh breadcrumbs**
- **good pinch sea salt and black pepper**
- **1tbsp parmesan, freshly grated**

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Tip the ricotta into a sieve to drain while you shave the kernels from the corn with a large knife. Reserve about 100g of the corn kernels and blend the rest in a food processor with the milk, for 2 minutes, to get a smooth batter. Beat the eggs and mix with the herbs, reserved corn kernels, corn milk batter, ricotta, grated cheddar and seasoning. Butter a litre pudding basin and scatter over the breadcrumbs to cover, tipping the bowl so they coat the sides well (keep 1tbsp of breadcrumbs for the top). Pour in the batter, and top with parmesan and the remaining breadcrumbs. Stand the bowl in a roasting dish filled with kettle-hot water and bake for roughly an hour then check by pressing the top lightly to see if it's firm; if it's not set cook a little longer.

### One-pot raspberry jam

If the large quantities of most recipes put you off making jam, why not make a solitary pot? Raspberries make jam that sets well, so are a good fruit to start with.

- **250g raspberries**
- **250g sugar**

Place the raspberries in a heavy-bottomed pan and crush lightly with the back of a wooden spoon. Cook over a low heat until the fruit bubbles. Heat the sugar in the oven for 5 minutes on a low heat. Add the warmed sugar to the fruit and stir well. Increase the heat and boil without stirring for 10 minutes. When the setting point is reached (105°C), ladle into a warm, sterilised jar (the hot cycle of your dishwasher will do this). □

HILLARYS
You'll love what we do

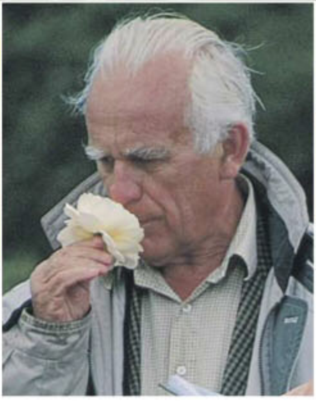
BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS

NEW
COLLECTION
BLINDS &
CURTAINS

As the made-to-measure experts, we've been helping people make their homes even more beautiful for over 45 years. With our unique in-home service we'll bring the samples to you, so you can choose your new window dressings or flooring in the comfort of your own home. We take care of all the measuring and fitting too. It's why you'll love what we do.

TO BOOK YOUR FREE HOME APPOINTMENT
CALL **0800 587 6480** OR VISIT **hillarys.co.uk**

The Lady's Blush *(Ausocar)*



David C.H. Austin

*Bring instant colour to your garden...*

There are few more spectacular sights than a garden in full flower at the height of summer. If you feel your own garden needs a lift, try planting David Austin's repeat-flowering English Roses. Just a few choice varieties added to your border, or planted in large pots, will completely transform your garden bringing an abundance of colour and fragrance from now until the first frosts.

We're offering readers of *Gardens Illustrated* **10% OFF** every time you order with us before 31st October 2017, quoting code **GT40.**

Visit: **www.davidaustinroses.com** | Call: **01902 376300**

DAVID AUSTIN®

# Danny Wilcockson

Working at Trentham with its combination of heritage 'Capability' Brown landscape and Piet Oudolf's contemporary planting gives Danny a varied day-to-day challenge

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

**Earliest gardening memory** Aged five, helping my Dad lift potatoes at his allotment and the distinctive allotment smell of greens smouldering on a bonfire.

**What did you do before horticulture became your career?** Somehow I ended up as a market research executive, spending my days behind a desk in London. When I was made redundant in 2011 I had space to focus on where I wanted to be, what I wanted to do, and what satisfied me most. I decided to retrain in horticulture at Northumberland College and I am so glad I did.

**What about the next generation of gardeners?** There are many fantastic traineeships available for ambitious trainee gardeners in the UK, such as the Historic and Botanic Garden Trainee Programme that we offer at Trentham. The challenge is to ensure graduates from these traineeships have attractive permanent employment opportunities to go on to, allowing them to progress and to bring on further talent.

**Favourite landscape** It is only recently that I've realised how much the landscapes of 'Capability' Brown and his predecessors have influenced my life and career. Like Brown, I grew up in Northumberland among big skies and rolling hills, so when I came to Trentham and I saw the rolling hills, the lake, the big sky, I felt very much at home.

**Favourite type of weather for gardening** A drizzly day to break a hot summer spell. You can feel the gardens relax; the greens look greener, the soil darker, and the gardeners cooler and calmer.

**What's the next big project you'll be tackling at Trentham?** The Rivers of Grass area at Trentham is classic Piet Oudolf, with swathes of *Molinia* interspersed with patches of perennials, such as *Trollius*, *Iris sibirica* and *Persicaria bistorta* 'Superba'. Over the years the perennials have become congested and do not perform as they did ten years ago when they were planted. This autumn we began a three-year project to divide and reinvigorate them. It is very hard work to dig in our heavy wet clay, but so far the patches we have completed have rewarded us with more flowers and a neater overall look.

**Further information** Trentham Estate, Stone Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 8JG. Tel 01782 646646, trentham.co.uk You can find out more about the Historic and Botanic Garden Trainee Programme at hbgtp.org.uk

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Save when you subscribe
to the digital edition

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Northern light
Rich planting in a cool climate
SEPTEMBER PALETTE
the best plants for late summer colour
Expert guide to colourful cosmos
Refreshing Ideas
Pools and ponds for outdoor swimming
Ann-Marie Powell designs a sloping rural garden

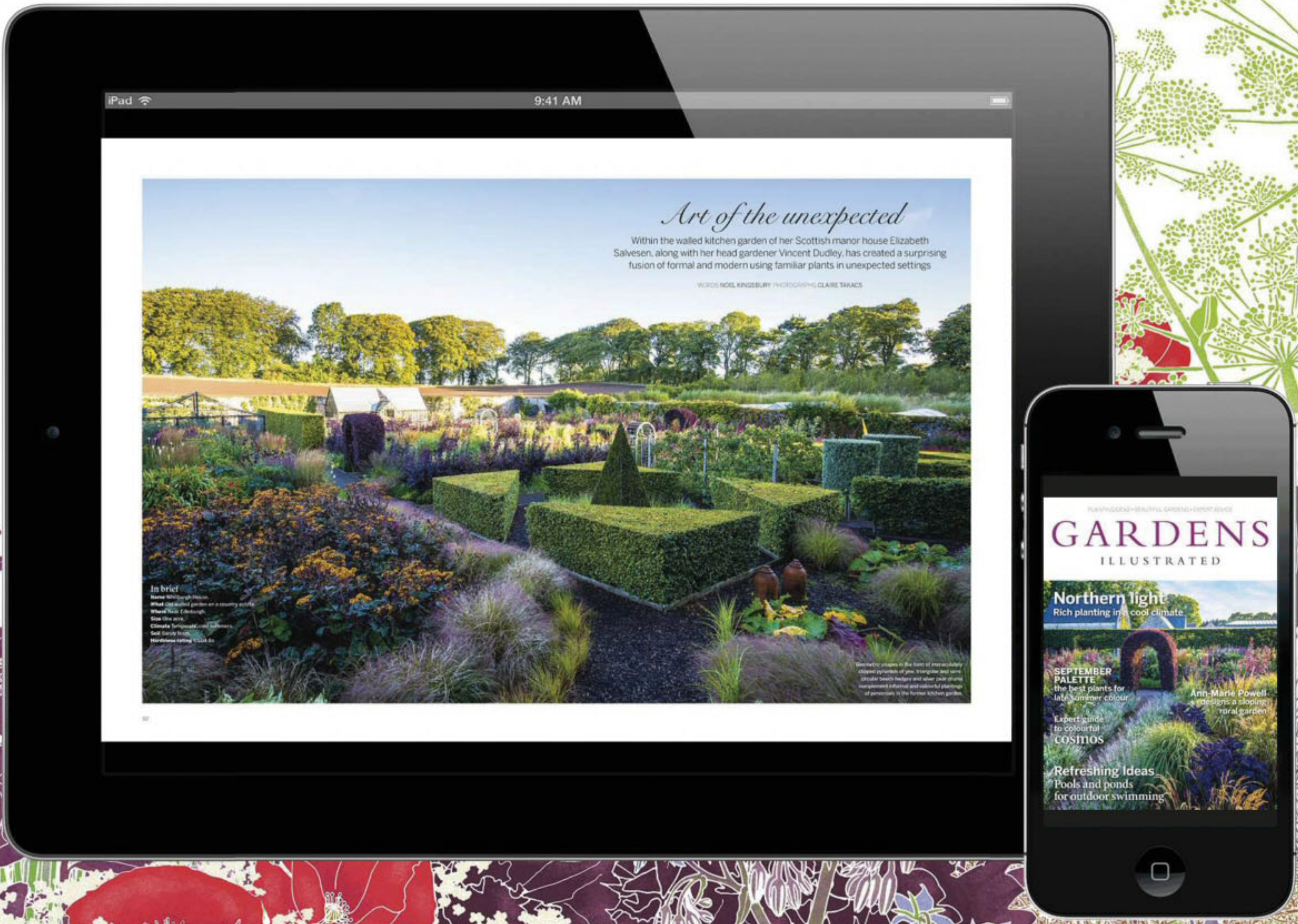
Available from

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

amazon apps Available on kindle fire

A must-have read for passionate gardeners, *Gardens Illustrated* magazine provides a unique insight into the world's most beautiful gardens, irresistible plants and clever design.


iPad
9:41 AM
Art of the unexpected
Within the walled kitchen garden of her Scottish manor house Elizabeth Salvesen, along with her head gardener Vincent Dudley, has created a surprising fusion of formal and modern using familiar plants in unexpected settings
WORDS NOEL KINGSBURY PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE TAKACS
In brief
GARDENS ILLUSTRATED
Northern light
Rich planting in a cool climate
SEPTEMBER PALETTE
the best plants for late summer colour
Ann-Marie Powell designs a sloping rural garden
Expert guide to colourful cosmos
Refreshing Ideas
Pools and ponds for outdoor swimming

Enjoy our Premium App experience
now available from

Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google play
amazon apps Available on kindle fire

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

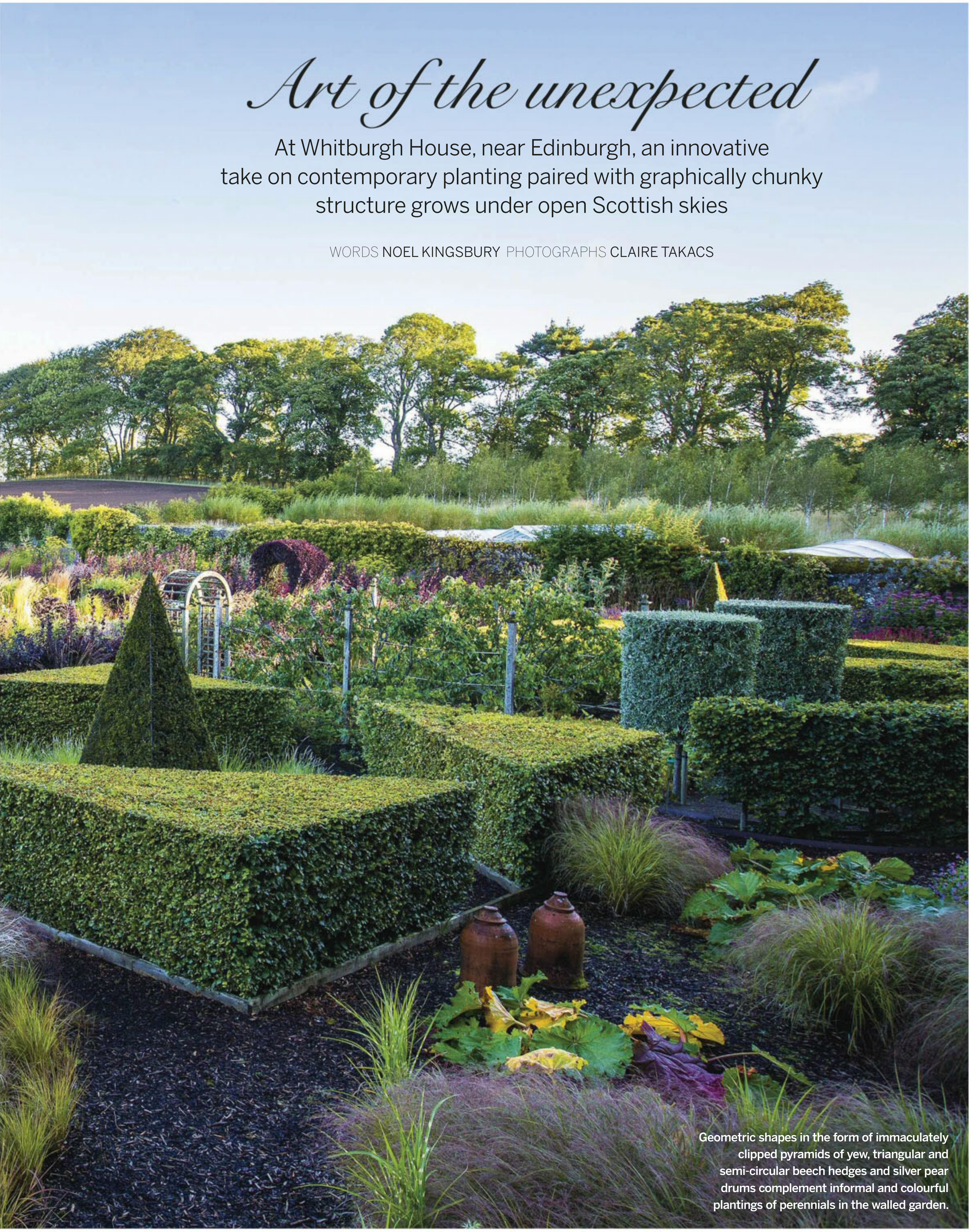
## In brief

**Name** Whitburgh House.
**What** Old walled garden on a country estate.
**Where** Near Edinburgh.
**Size** One acre.
**Climate** Temperate, cool summers.
**Soil** Sandy loam.
**Hardiness rating** USDA 8a.

# Art of the unexpected

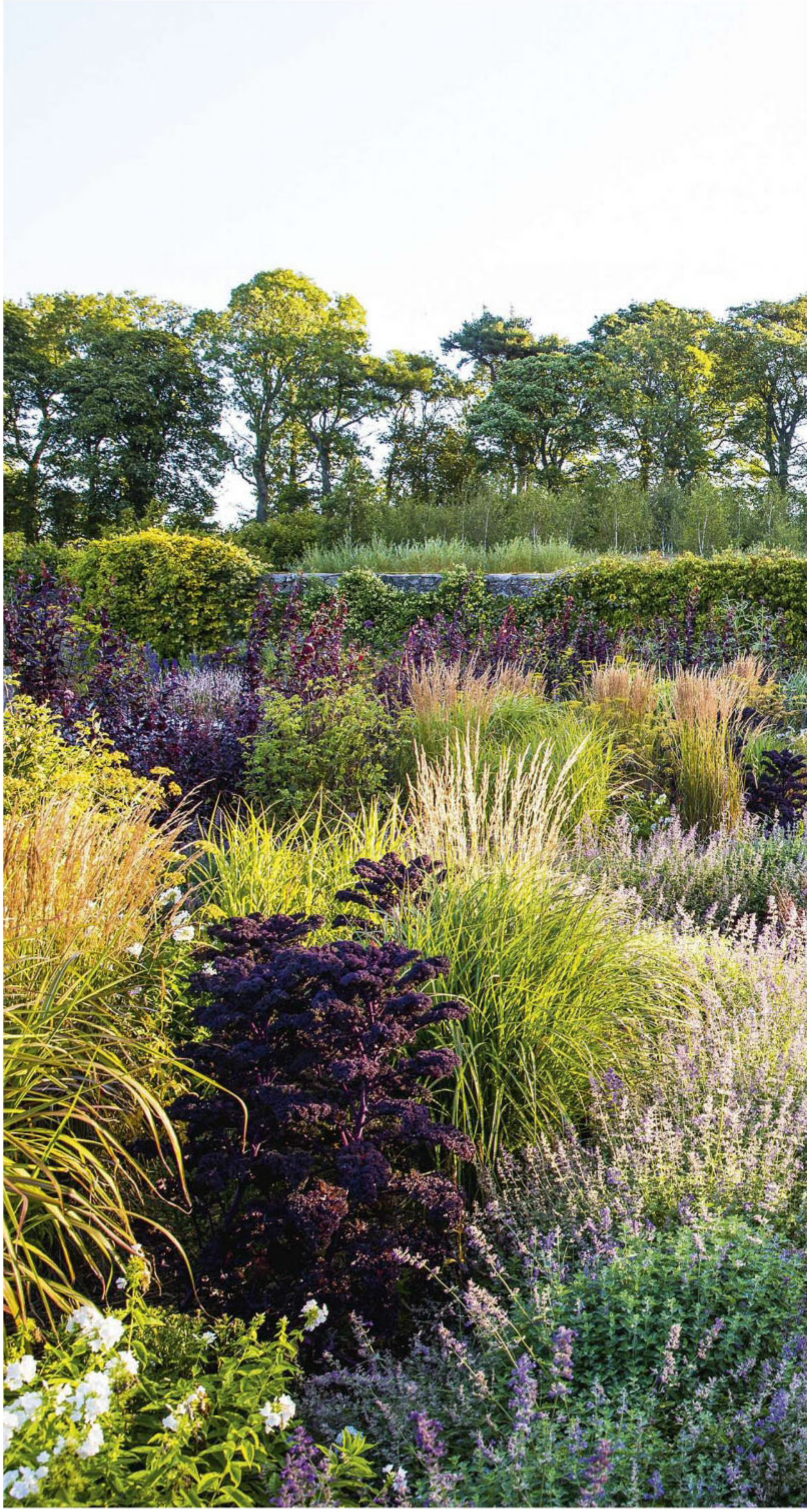
At Whitburgh House, near Edinburgh, an innovative take on contemporary planting paired with graphically chunky structure grows under open Scottish skies

WORDS NOEL KINGSBURY PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE TAKACS



Geometric shapes in the form of immaculately clipped pyramids of yew, triangular and semi-circular beech hedges and silver pear drums complement informal and colourful plantings of perennials in the walled garden.

Head gardener Vincent Dudley with owner Elizabeth Salvesen.



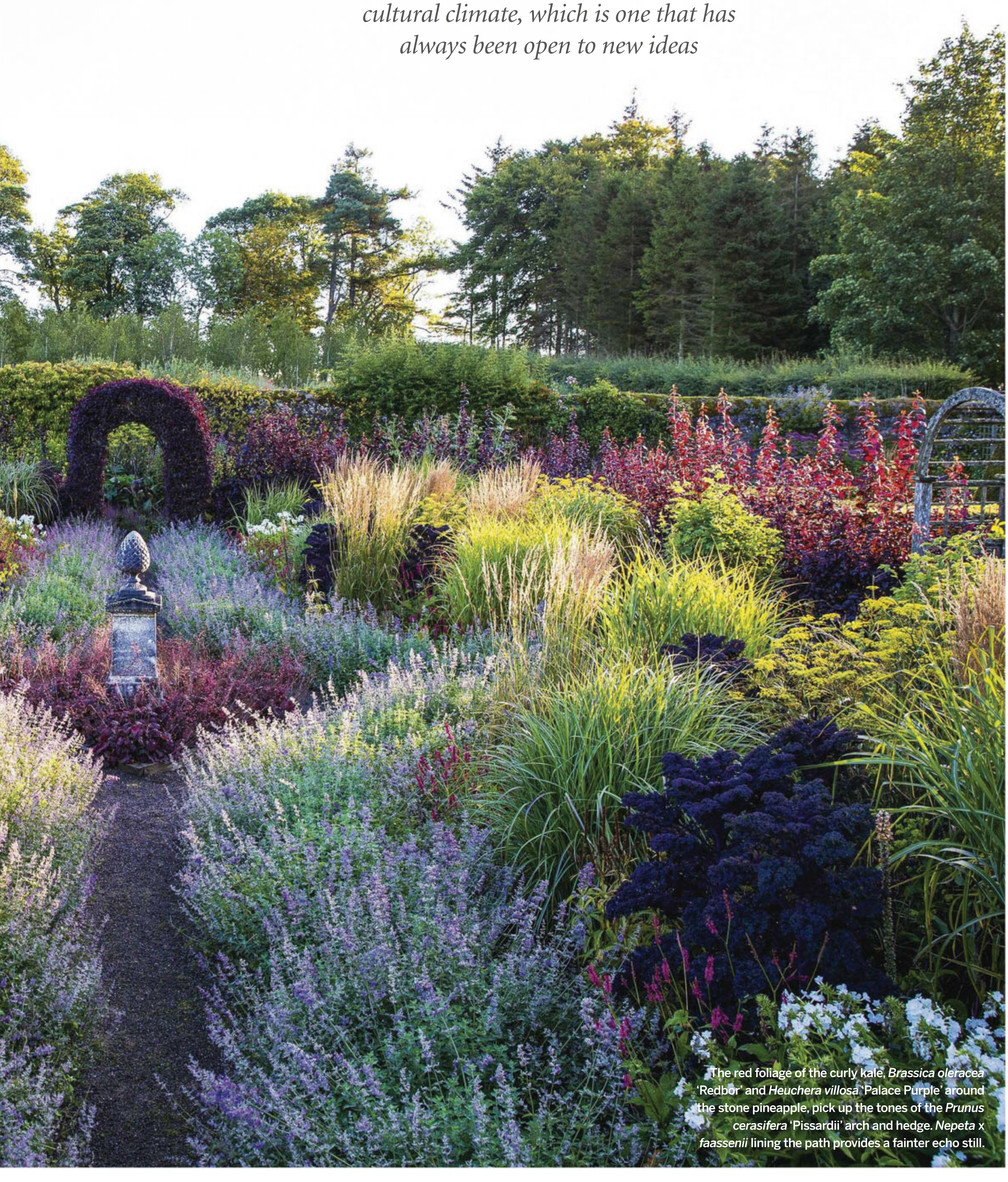
Contemporary sculpture, strategically placed around Whitburgh House, is the first hint this is not an average country house garden. Indeed the main planted area is a good 150m walk from the house, in the old walled kitchen garden. Just before you enter, there is another hint you are in for surprises – several galvanised steel troughs are planted up with *Darmera peltata*, the magnificent, large, round leaves of which are normally only seen around ponds. The familiar in an unfamiliar place gives a jolt to the sense of expectation.

Inside the walls, the first impression is of formal order with a double line of beech on stilts framing the view. Beyond, a central screen of *Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii' makes for a striking central feature. There are plenty of other ordered formal elements: blocks of yew and box, clipped pyramids and hedges, while some box hedging is gradually being cloud-pruned into modernity. But, formality is extended beyond hedging to unexpected plants, in particular grasses.

"That was our idea completely," says owner Elizabeth Salvesen pointing out one strikingly innovative feature – two sweeping semi-circles of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Flamingo' that bring to life a previously unused lawn. All this graphic structure is a foil for relaxed naturalistic planting, with a wide variety of often vividly coloured perennials that thrive in the cool but well-lit Scottish summers.

Elizabeth and her husband Alastair are major patrons of the arts in Scotland, hence the fine collection of pieces in the 'policies' ▷

*The garden benefits from Scotland's cultural climate, which is one that has always been open to new ideas*

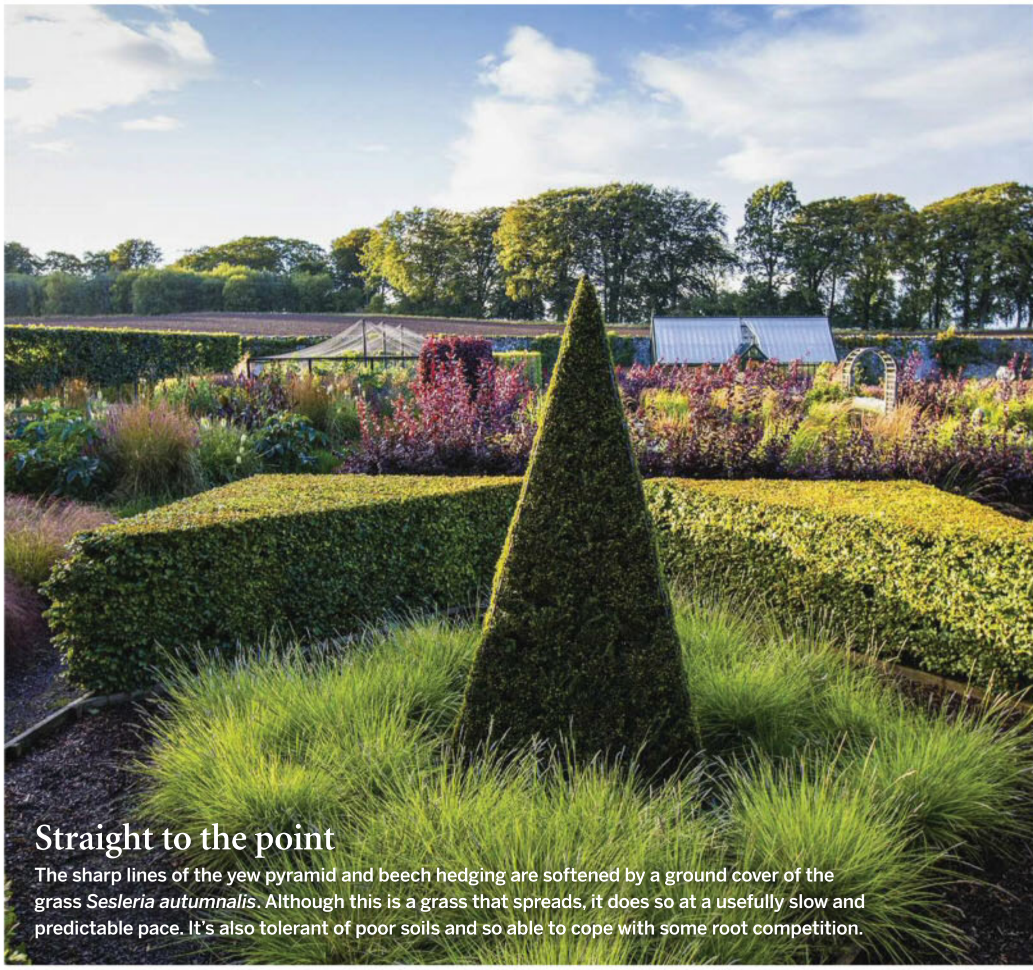


The red foliage of the curly kale, *Brassica oleracea* 'Redbor' and *Heuchera villosa* 'Palace Purple' around the stone pineapple, pick up the tones of the *Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii' arch and hedge. *Nepeta* x *faassenii* lining the path provides a fainter echo still.

▷ as the grass areas around the house are known in Scotland. Elizabeth is a passionate innovator in the garden, and works in close collaboration with head gardener Vincent Dudley. Both have been on numerous *Gardens Illustrated* tours, including trips to Germany, the USA, the Netherlands and Sweden. On these trips, Elizabeth and Vincent will often wander off, notebooks in hand, discussing intently some aspect of the planting or other design features. The results of their observations and discussions can be seen at Whitburgh.

"The garden began to take shape in 1998," says Vincent. "In 2000, after some construction, one half was completely redesigned. We then started the new planting style in 2005 to 2006, which is about when we first started going on the tours. The light-bulb moment for me was when we went to the Weihenstephan trial garden near Munich, with its linear beds with fantastic colour combinations that you see at different angles as you walk along, as well as the research garden at Hermannshof. There it was the way in which they managed the garden that interested me, with different levels of

To continue turn to page 40

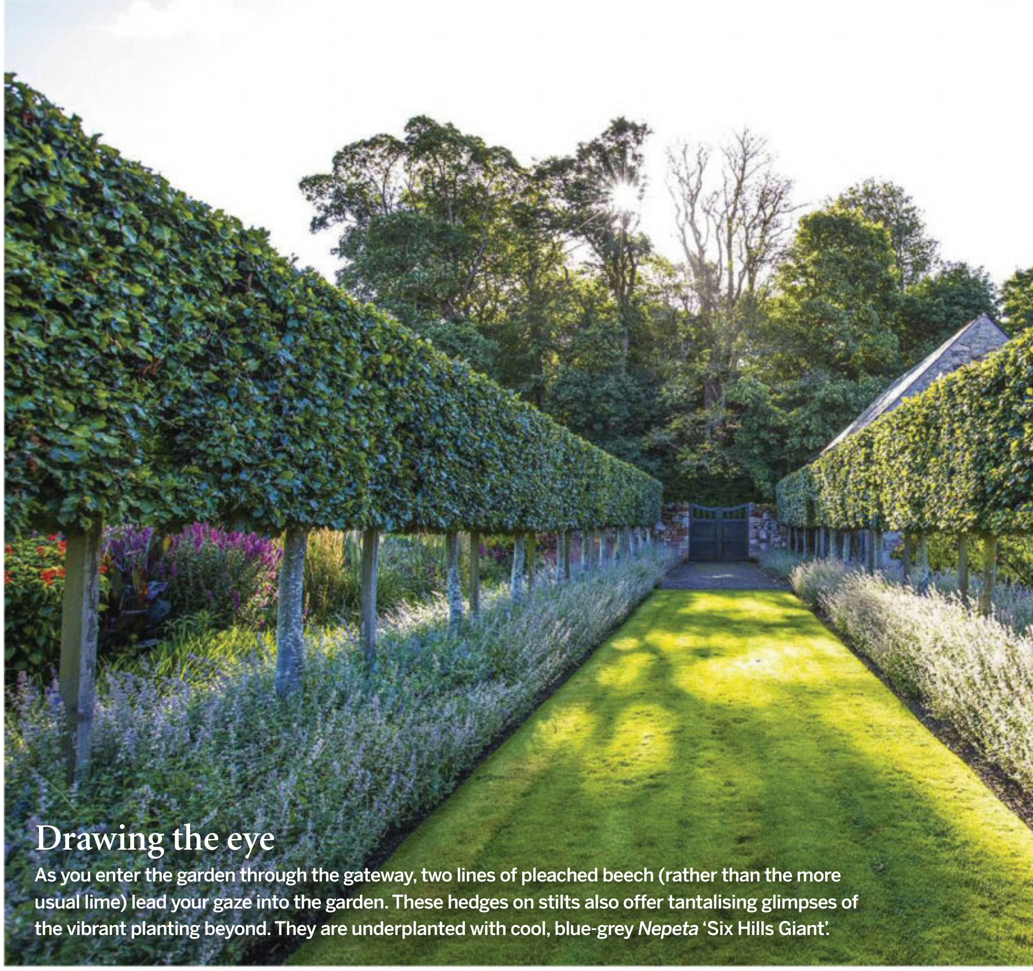


## Straight to the point

The sharp lines of the yew pyramid and beech hedging are softened by a ground cover of the grass *Sesleria autumnalis*. Although this is a grass that spreads, it does so at a usefully slow and predictable pace. It's also tolerant of poor soils and so able to cope with some root competition.

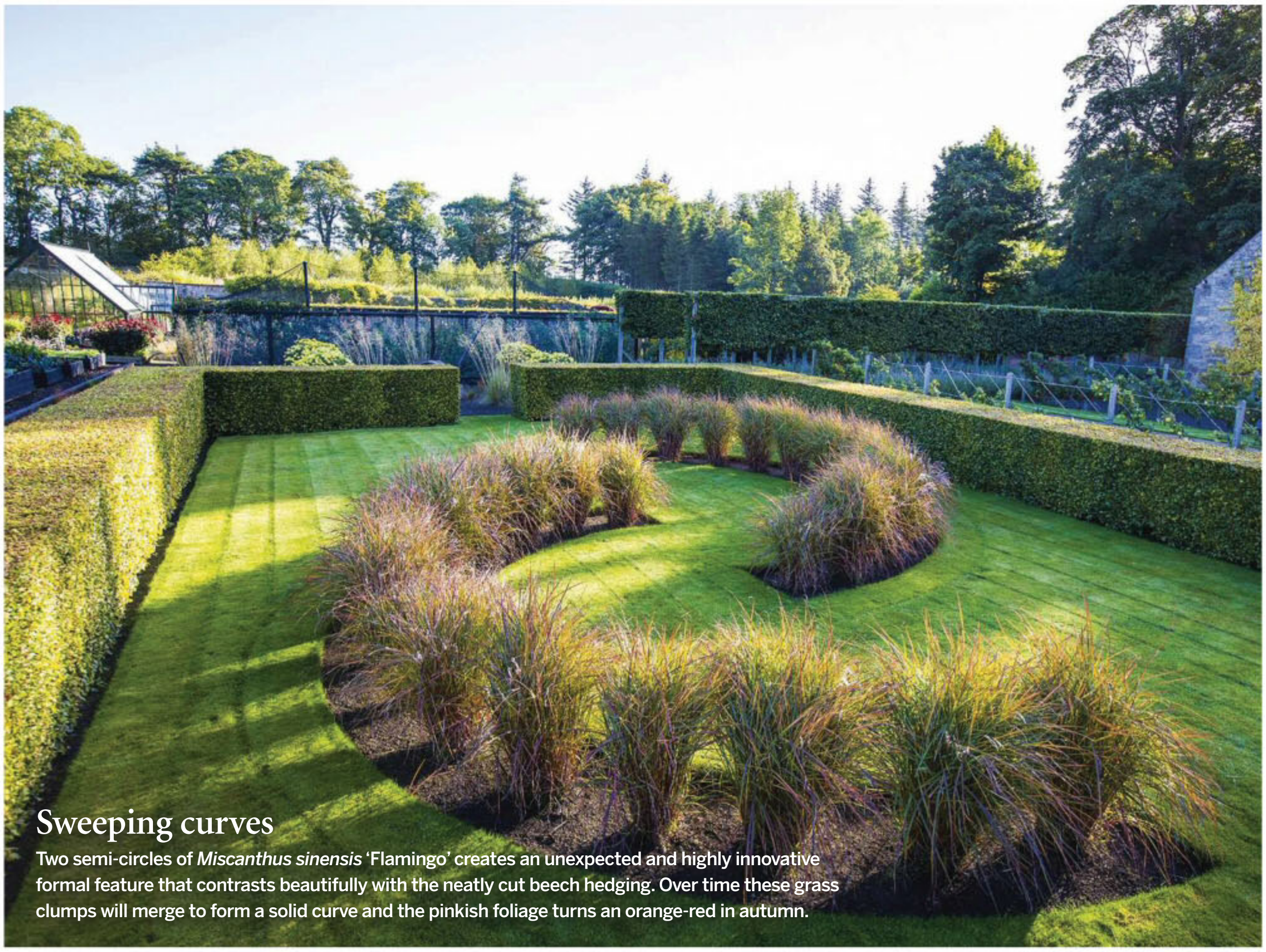
## Modern topiary and hedging

Hedging and topiary play an important role at Whitburgh House and can be found throughout the garden in both conventional and strikingly contemporary forms. There are pleached allées (see right) that define areas and screen views in a time-honoured fashion, while arches created from purple-leaved plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii') create unusual focal points. Elsewhere there are groupings of geometric shapes (see above, left), with triangles and pyramids of beech and yew, and drums of silver pear (*Pyrus salicifolia* 'Pendula') that are traditional in their layout but contemporary in their graphic chunkiness. Most striking of all are the box 'sculptures' (see far right) made by Vincent who describes them as "simply shaping some left-over plants". All the clipping works because it is extremely well done; every edge is crisp and cut regularly. It is probably fair to say that the more unconventional the clipping style the more important it is that it is done with precision.



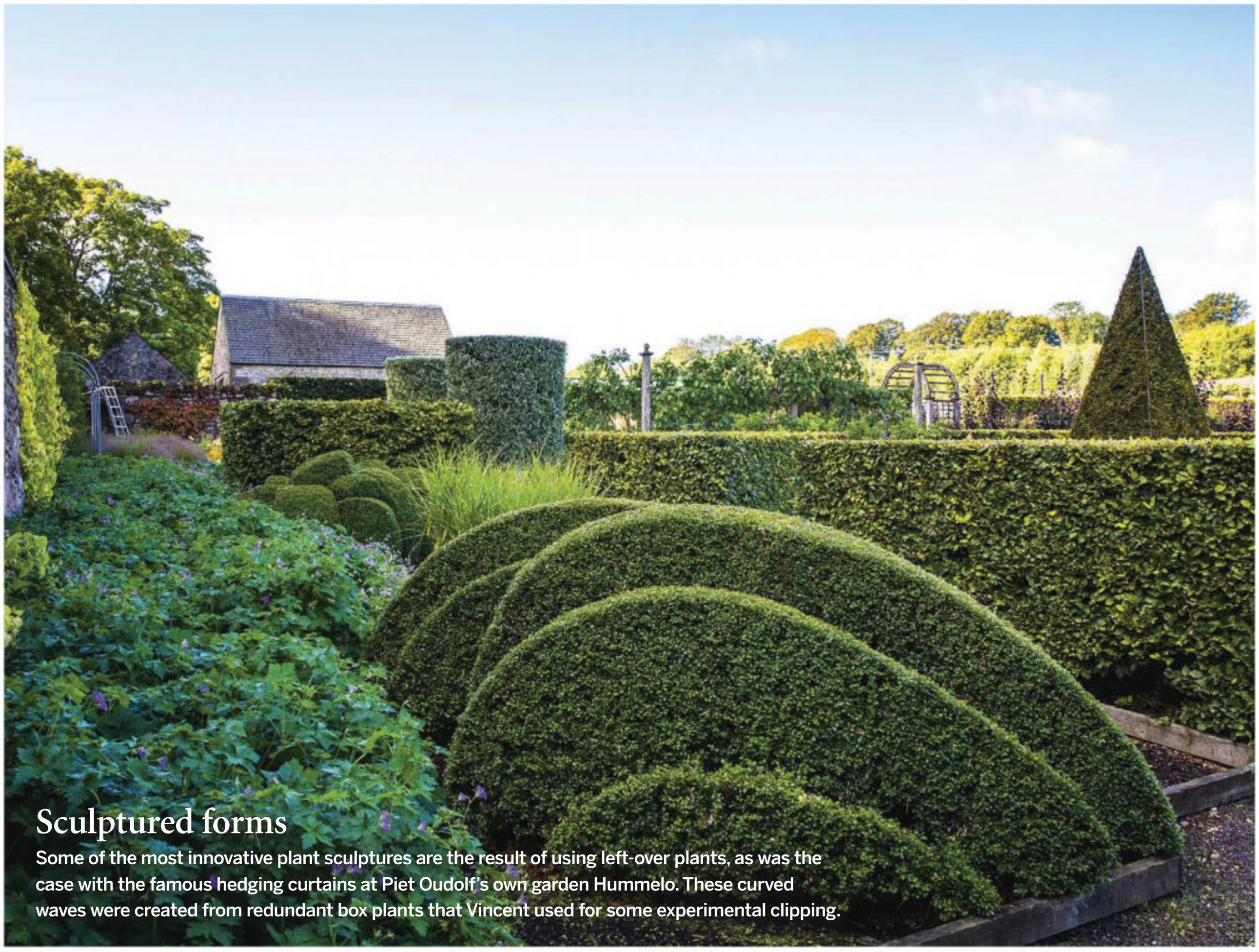
## Drawing the eye

As you enter the garden through the gateway, two lines of pleached beech (rather than the more usual lime) lead your gaze into the garden. These hedges on stilts also offer tantalising glimpses of the vibrant planting beyond. They are underplanted with cool, blue-grey *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant'.



## Sweeping curves

Two semi-circles of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Flamingo' creates an unexpected and highly innovative formal feature that contrasts beautifully with the neatly cut beech hedging. Over time these grass clumps will merge to form a solid curve and the pinkish foliage turns an orange-red in autumn.



## Sculptured forms

Some of the most innovative plant sculptures are the result of using left-over plants, as was the case with the famous hedging curtains at Piet Oudolf's own garden Hummelo. These curved waves were created from redundant box plants that Vincent used for some experimental clipping.

1

2

3

4

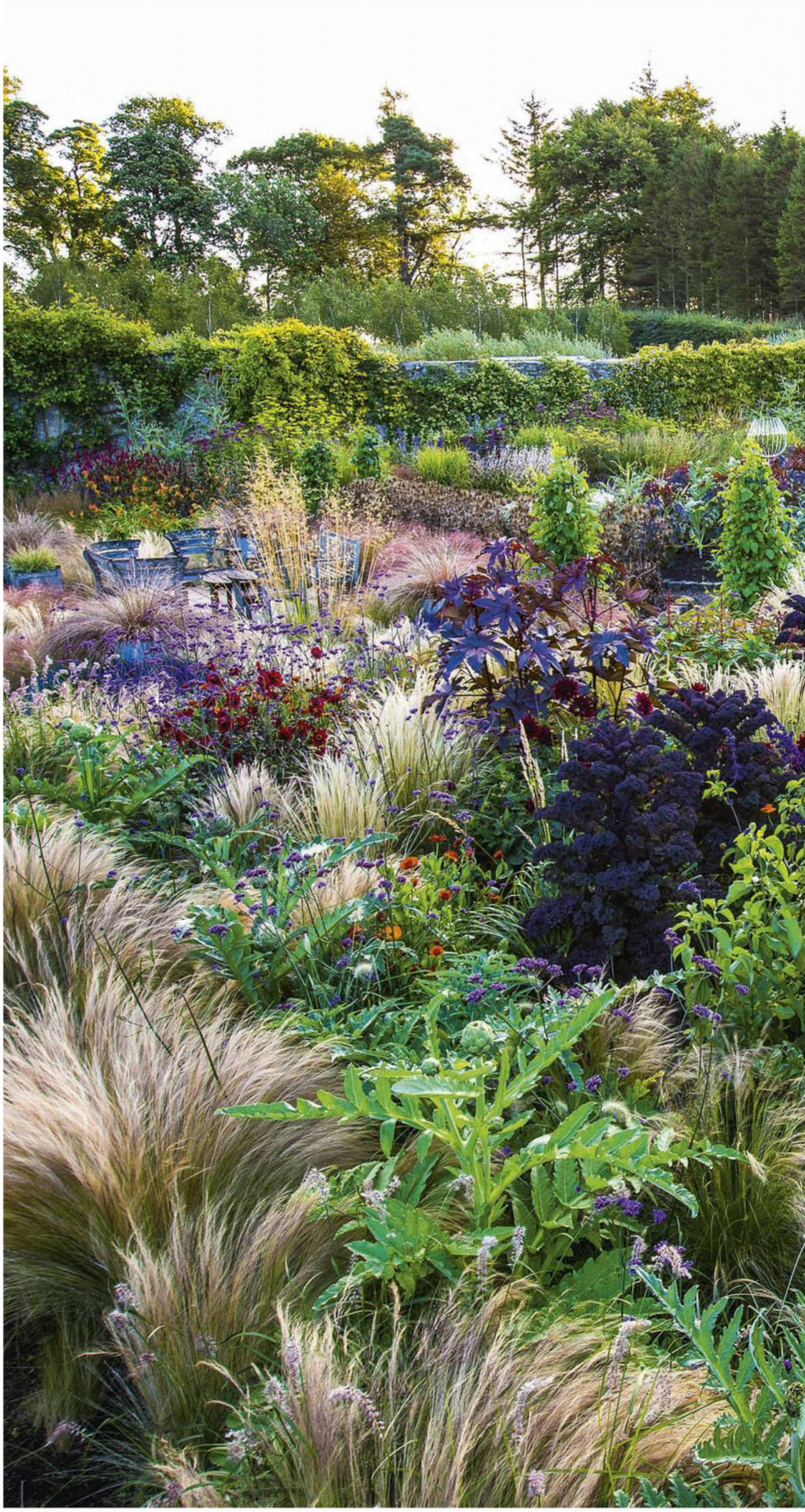
5

6

## Innovation in planting

This large block of planting within the walled garden is where Elizabeth and Vincent try out new ideas. "It's a test bed," says Vincent. "We might try out combinations that work here elsewhere in the garden." The basic structure remains the same from year to year, the short-lived but self-seeding grass ***Stipa tenuissima* (1)** and the ***Brassica oleracea* 'Redbor' (2)**, a red-leaved curvy kale, has to be started from seed and planted out every year. These two create a contrast of extremes: in colour, in tonal depth, form, but not in texture, as both are soft and ambiguous in feel, while the kale echoes the purple-leaved plum hedge. Together they provide a background for whatever colours Elizabeth and Vincent want to experiment with. Among the flowers they are using this year are the rich-red ***Dahlia* 'Chat Noir' (3)** and orange ***Calendula officinalis* (4)**, which they love contrasting with lime greens. Stronger forms are highlighted too, such as, the globe artichoke ***Cynara cardunculus* (5)** and the annual ***Ricinus communis* (6)**, the castor-oil plant. Vincent uses randomised planting with an approximate 30cm spacing, and is guided as much by practical considerations as by the aesthetics of colour or shape when choosing perennials. "We are not going to stake anything and we don't feed," he says.

Feature continues over the page



*"I find colour surprisingly easy to deal with. Strong colours are especially good late in the season, they're enhanced by the quality of the light here"*

**Clockwise from top left**

**A double spiral of mown paths** has been cut through a rough grass meadow just outside the walled garden. Five different cultivars of birch line the winding path providing both continuity and also subtle change.

**Grasses, including *Anemanthele lessoniana,*** *Carex buchananii*, *Molinia caerulea* and *Stipa gigantea*, surround a seating area in the walled garden.

**Looking south from the house,** the view out over the hills is interrupted by the skeleton of a dead tree that Elizabeth has painted blue. To its left is a piece by artist and glassmaker Neil Wilkin titled *Seed Head*.

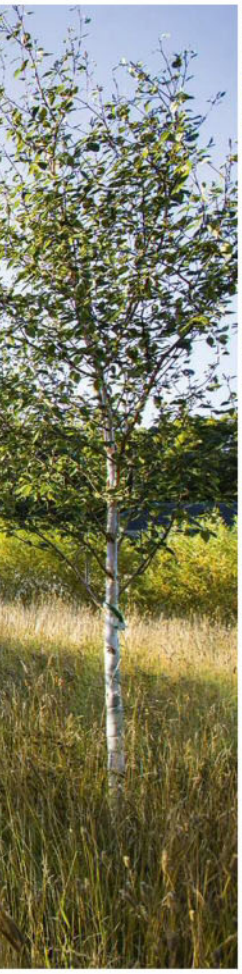
**Three penguins made from old motorcycle** petrol tanks, by the Scottish sculptor Helen Denerley, look over a pool – a restful space in a complex garden. Apple cordons of old Scottish cultivars line each side.

▷ interested me, with different levels of maintenance for different areas."

Inspiration has also come from closer to home. "The purple plum screen was an idea from the House of Pitmuies Garden in Angus many years ago," says Elizabeth. The Walled Garden at Scampston Hall in Yorkshire, designed by Piet Oudolf, has been another major source of inspiration for Elizabeth. "There perennials are balanced by strikingly contemporary clipped shrubs and waves of ornamental grasses," she says.

The solidity and graphic quality of clipped foliage acts as a foil for perennials and annuals, including very airy delicate species, such as *Verbena bonariensis*, but it provides a particularly strong counterpoint to the colours of the planting. "I find colour surprisingly easy to deal with," says Elizabeth. "Over the years we have moved on from soft colours to more zingy ones, such as lime green, orange and aubergine. Strong colours like the oranges are especially good late in the season, they're enhanced by the quality of the late-summer light here."

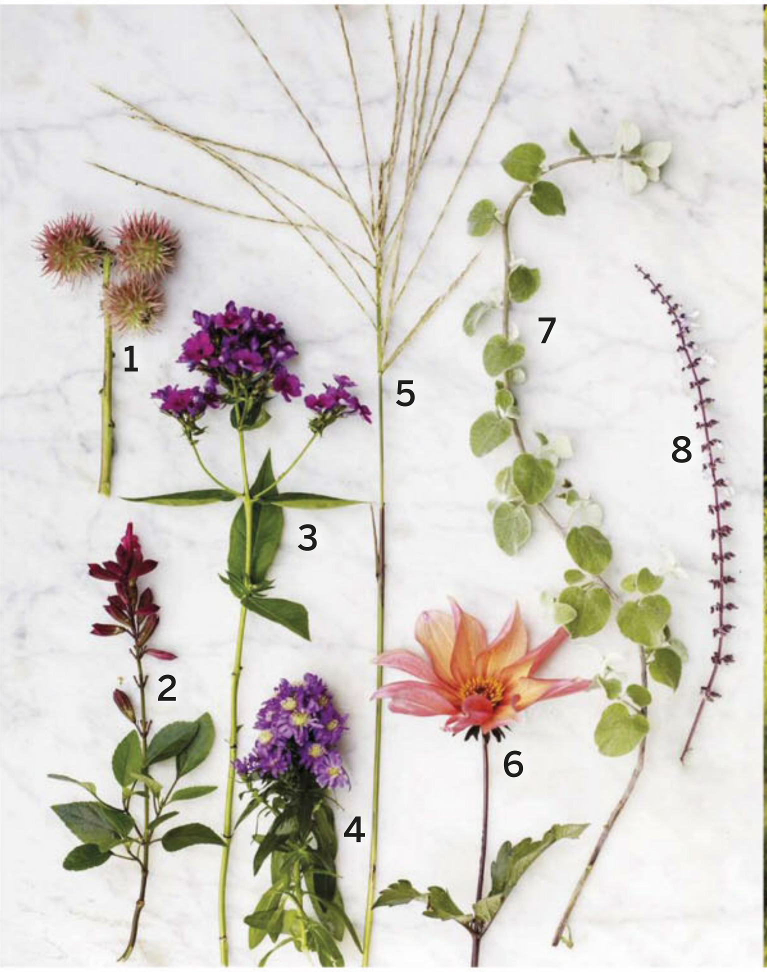
That warm, late-summer light may bring out the best in this garden but it's the quality of planting that makes it stand out. It's lucky in that like much of Scotland it benefits form a climate that is kind to a wide range of planting. You could also argue it benefits from Scotland's cultural climate, which is one that has always been open to new ideas. Both are intrinsically entwined in this lively, forward-looking and unexpected gem of a garden. ☐



# At first sight

Gardener Thomas Unterdorfer can be fickle in his favourite plants, but by regularly changing the mix in the pots that greet him each morning his interest is constantly sparked

WORDS **THOMAS UNTERDORFER** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREW MONTGOMERY**



# Making an entrance

The entrance to my cottage on the estate reflects the ever-developing palette of plants I fall in and out of love with. The only constants are the two espaliered apple trees in dolly tubs, all other pots keep changing, depending on the season. In September I want it to look lush and exuberant. This ensemble is framed by two large *Canna* 'Musifolia', which will never flower here simply because it is too cold, but I grow them for their foliage.

## How to achieve the look

**Colours and shapes**

Most of the plants around the door are grown in pots, with very few planted in the ground. I change the plants every few weeks, depending on what looks good, which ones are developing strongly and which are my current favourites. The display is also a good way of trying out newcomers and seeing how they perform over the season. The colours vary depending on what is in flower and I can easily spend a Sunday afternoon taking it all apart and grouping the plants back together again, carefully studying the colours of flowers, leaves and stems. This way, it feels more like flower arranging, but each plant has to be grown well in its pot, be healthy and be typical of its type.

**Cultivation and care**

I grow most plants in a mixture of multi-purpose compost and John Innes No.2, and always make sure there is enough drainage. If you choose high-quality compost it should provide the plants with sufficient nutrients for the season, but a weekly liquid feed will achieve the best results. For a grouping such as this, terracotta or old metal containers look best, but plastic pots are easier to move around, especially for big plants, and a lot cheaper. I spend some time staking and weaving plants into each other, to achieve a tapestry of foliage and flowers so it does not look like a collection of individual pots. Deadheading is also beneficial, although I keep seedheads for effect and seeds.

## Plants (see above left)

**1 *Ricinus communis* 'Carmencita Pink'** Dark-green foliage and deep-pink seed pods make this an enduring favourite. 1.75m. USDA 9a-11†.

**2 *Salvia* 'Wendy's Wish'**
Another of my favourites with intensely coloured calyces. 80cm. USDA 9b-10b.

**3 *Phlox paniculata* 'Roberta'**
Good, rich colour. Ideal for pots. July to September. 60cm.

**4 *Aster* 'Starletta Dark Blue'**
A reliable plant for containers and readily available. 50cm.

**5 *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Flamingo'**
Grass with pink-tinged inflorescences. 1.25m. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

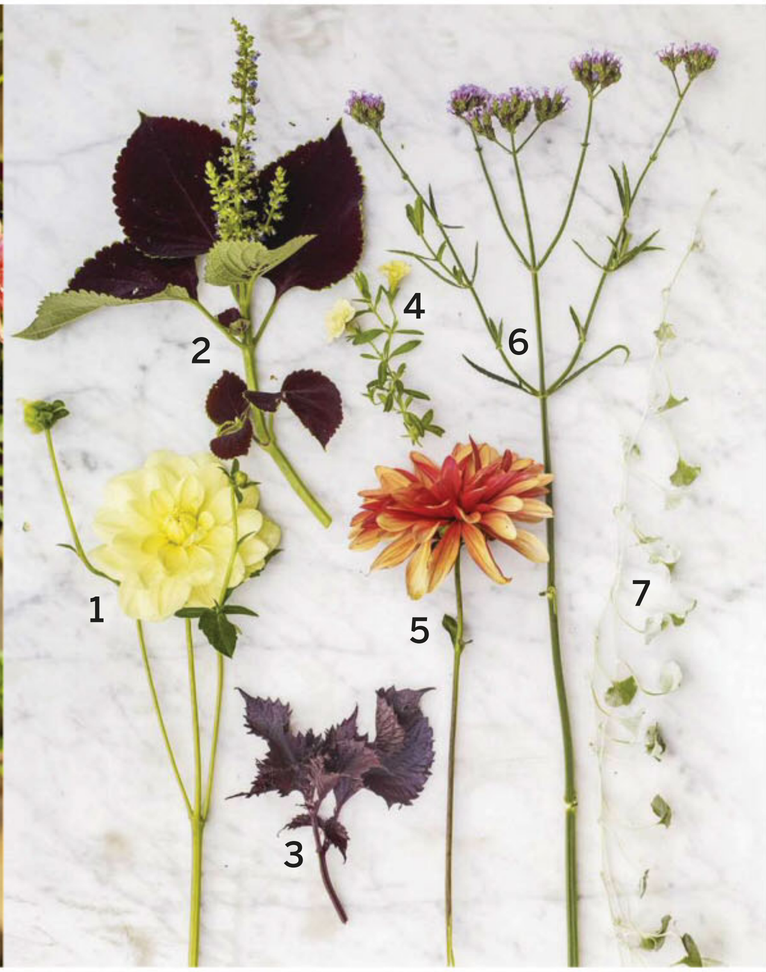
**6 *Dahlia* 'Waltzing Mathilda'**
Dark foliage and coral-pink flowers with a hint of purple. 60cm. AGM. RHS H3.

**7 *Helichrysum petiolare*** Grown for its grey foliage. Control by pruning. 50cm. AGM. RHS H3, USDA 9b-11.

**8 *Plectranthus argentatus* 'Silver Shield'** Silver foliage plant with lavender-coloured flower spikes. 1m.

---

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.



# Autumn fireworks

The log store is not the most attractive area so I decided to brighten it with some lush plants in a Victorian water carrier. Dahlias are at the height of their splendour now and 'Glorie van Heemstede' and 'Jescot Julie' are two of my favourites. *Solenostemon* 'Chocolate Mint' has started to flower and the dark-leaved *Perilla* complements its colour, while the shyly trailing *Calibrachoa* Can-can Double Dark Yellow repeats the yellow of *Dahlia* 'Glorie van Heemstede'.

## How to achieve the look

**Colours and shapes**

The background is very dark, so the pale-yellow flowers of *Dahlia* 'Glorie van Heemstede' show up nicely. The petals of *Dahlia* 'Jescot Julie' have a purple underside so provide a subtle link with the *Verbena bonariensis*, the *Perilla frutescens* var. *crispa* and the rich foliage of *Solenostemon* 'Chocolate Mint'. Using plants with dark flowers and leaves adds depth to any display and makes lighter colours shine even more. To achieve a different effect, you could easily change the colours of the dahlias, use some tall grasses or use *Plectranthus argentatus* to make the display lighter. For me it is important to achieve the height and volume of plants to balance the dimensions of the container.

**Container, cultivation and care**

A water carrier is an ideal, albeit extravagant, planter. It's easy to move and its volume allows for a great amount of compost. I have drilled several holes in the base of the container, used a few crocks to cover them and a bag of hydroleca, which is light and allows for good drainage. Good-quality, multi-purpose compost with a weekly liquid feed will nurture the display until the first strong frost. Staking is essential, especially for the dahlias. I usually use hazel sticks, because they seem to disappear in among the plants and are readily available. After the first strong frost I will save the dahlia tubers, plant out the verbena and compost the rest, then wheel the container into the garage.

## Plants (see above)

**1 *Dahlia* 'Glorie van Heemstede'**
A water lily dahlia with pale-yellow flowers, good for cutting and borders. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H3.

**2 *Solenostemon* 'Chocolate Mint'**
Very elegant with lavender-coloured flower spikes. 40cm. USDA 10a-11.

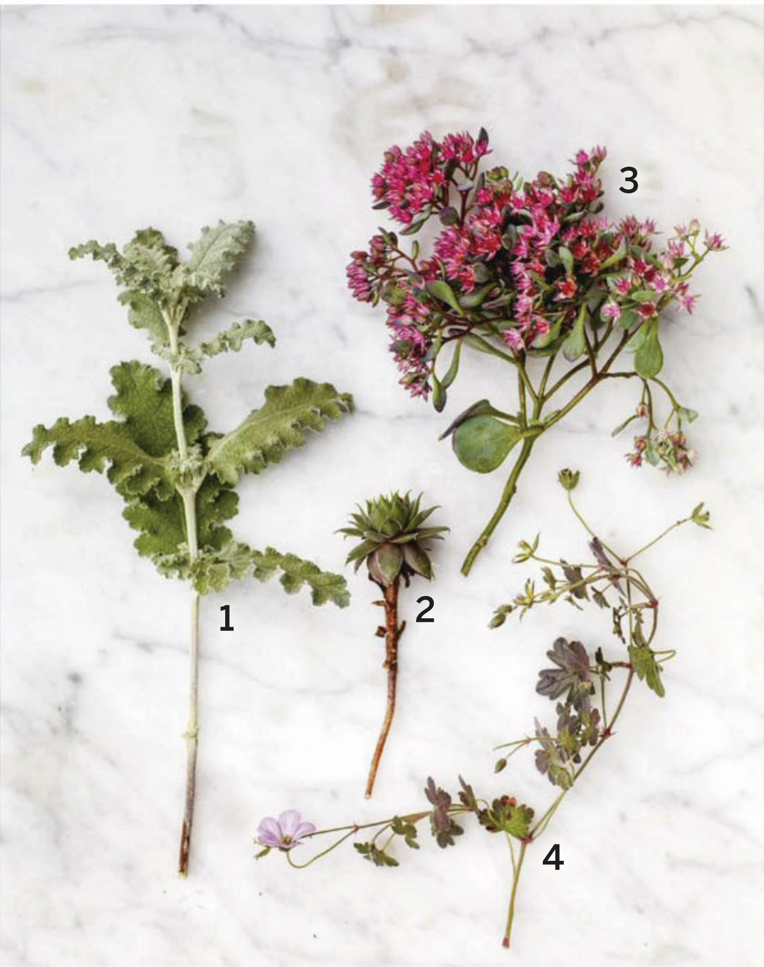
**3 *Perilla frutescens* var. *crispa***
Edible leaves and strong aroma. 80cm. AGM. RHS H3.

**4 *Calibrachoa* Can-can Double Dark Yellow**
Half-hardy, trailing perennial with petunia-like yellow flowers.

**5 *Dahlia* 'Jescot Julie'**
An orchid-flowered dahlia with orange flowers and a purple underside. 50cm.

**6 *Verbena bonariensis***
Garden stalwart, adding height and airiness to the scheme. 2m. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 7a-11.

**7 *Dichondra argentea* 'Silver Falls'**
Tender trailing perennial. A great foliage plant. 1.5m. USDA 9a-11.



# Table for four

I rarely buy single plants, but when I do, I usually grow them in pots for a season or two before I plant them out. This selection came from a rare plant fair and I had a small table in mind when selecting them. The *Hylotelephium ewersii* var. *homophyllum* 'Rosenteppich' is a great low-growing sedum and the star of this group. *Buddleja glomerata* provides a great background and a bowl of *Geranium* 'Dusky Crûg' adds more colour and texture.

## How to achieve the look

**Colours and shapes**

I have a soft spot for grey- and silver-leaved plants and was very happy to find a beautiful specimen of sedum. The colour fits perfectly with an old metal pot, where the paint is partially worn off. The buddleja is still young and should flower in the summer next year. It has velvety, silver leaves with ruffled edges and will develop into a medium-sized shrub once planted out. *Geranium* 'Dusky Crûg' features chocolate-purple leaves and light-pink flowers and works well in an old terracotta bowl. The little sedum has produced some offsets and seems to feature all the colours of its neighbours. I quite like the skirt of the old, brown leaves, which also features on its young offsets.

**Container, cultivation and care**

I drilled drainage holes in the metal containers for the sedum. After covering the holes with crocks and a layer of grit, I used multi-purpose compost with added grit as a planting medium. It is important to loosen the existing rootball to prevent roots from growing in a circle. All plants will be potted on or planted out in spring, so the pots I am using are not much bigger than the ones the plants were grown in. I will be able to split *Hylotelephium ewersii* var. *homophyllum* 'Rosenteppich' and *Geranium* 'Dusky Crûg' in spring and so increase them in number. The buddleja will be trained against a south-facing wall and the little sedum will find new neighbours for another season.

## Plants (see above left)

**1 *Buddleja glomerata***
Cut back hard in March to encourage strong, healthy growth and flowering. Flowers August to September. 4m.

**2 *Sempervivum* 'Rubin'**
A very old friend of mine and easy to grow in full sun. Good drainage is essential. Flowers profusely in summer. 10cm. RHS H7, USDA 2a-9b.

**3 *Hylotelephium ewersii* var. *homophyllum* 'Rosenteppich'**
Clump-forming, compact habit; best split in spring to increase numbers. Flowers August to September. 15-20cm. USDA 2a-9a.

**4 *Geranium* 'Dusky Crûg'**
Healthy chocolate-purple leaves with light-pink flowers. Full sun or part shade. June to October. 30cm.

The view from the terrace down the garden to the village green and the rolling South Downs beyond.

When Jackie and Alan Sherling bought Shepherd's Cottage three years ago, its primary purpose was as a bolthole from London. "We had downsized," explains Alan, "and we were looking for somewhere rural, but not isolated." Stoughton, with its 28 houses, church and pub, fitted the bill – it feels deeply rural, yet is only 15 minutes' drive from Chichester. The house overlooks a garden that is shaped like a slice of pie, narrowing to the bottom where it is contained within a flint wall that curves round from next door. The two adjoining gardens are separated by informal planting and a chestnut pale fence, and appear to flow into one another. The village green and the unmade lane that leads to Shepherd's Cottage and its neighbours are on the lower side of the wall with a clear view of the house and garden.

"We had planned to do minimal work in the garden," says Jackie, "but I knew we needed professional advice. We turned to designer Ann-Marie Powell who persuaded us to get the groundworks done before anything else, explaining that if we tried living with the old irregular terrace and wonky steps, the garden would never be what we wanted."

A new, generous terrace of riven Purbeck stone is surrounded by colourful mixed borders where ornamental grasses sway among roses and late-summer perennials, including *Echinacea*, *Symphyotrichum*, *Veronicastrum* and *Verbena bonariensis*. "We decided not to have a dining table ▷

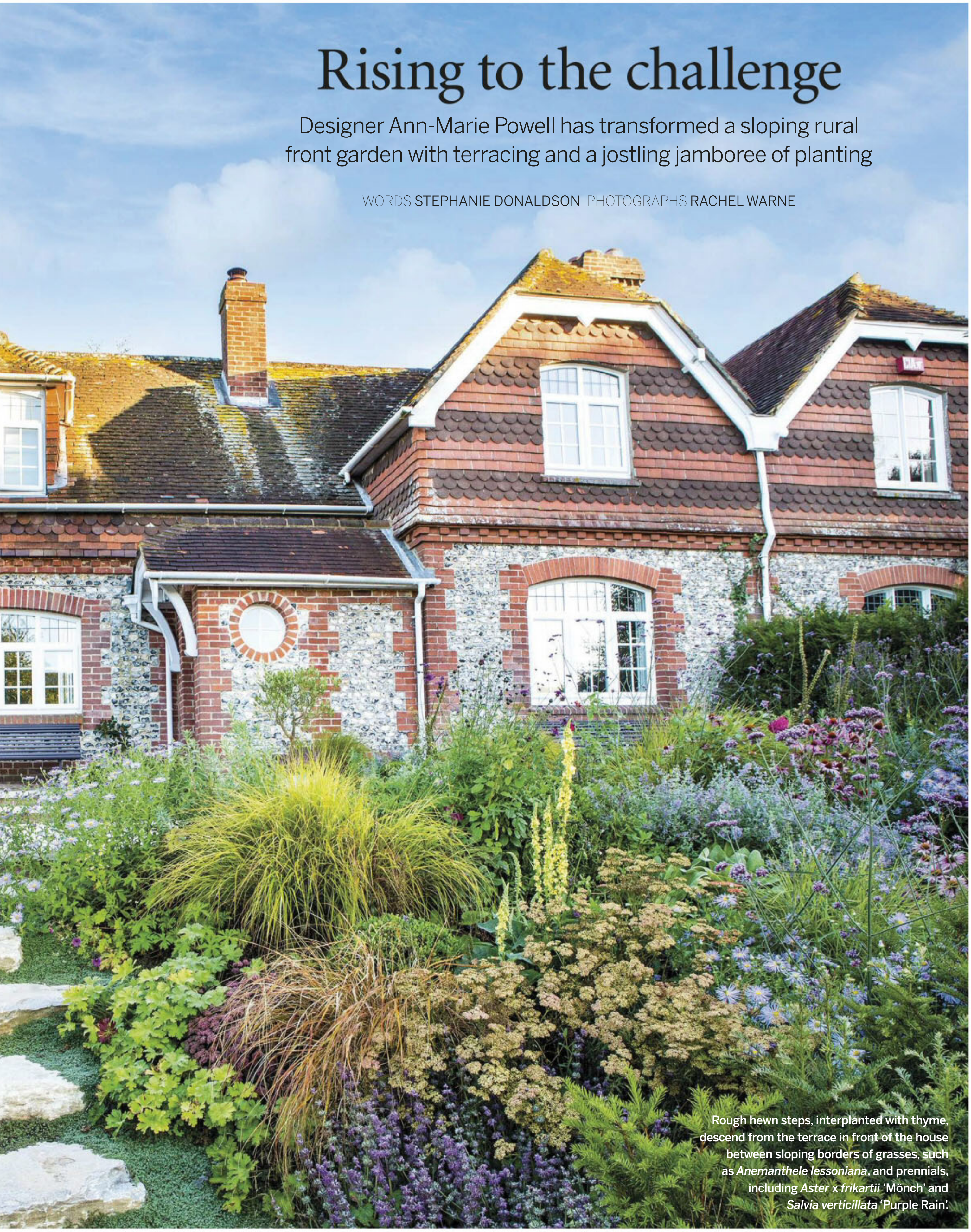
## In brief

**Name** Shepherd's Cottage.
**What** Contemporary country garden with densely planted sloping borders that leads on to a wildflower meadow and orchard.
**Where** Stoughton, West Sussex.
**Size** Approximately a third of an acre.
**Soil** Chalky flint.
**Climate** Mild and south-facing.
**Hardiness ratings** USDA 9.

# Rising to the challenge

Designer Ann-Marie Powell has transformed a sloping rural front garden with terracing and a jostling jamboree of planting

WORDS STEPHANIE DONALDSON PHOTOGRAPHS RACHEL WARNE



Rough hewn steps, interplanted with thyme, descend from the terrace in front of the house between sloping borders of grasses, such as *Anemanthele lessoniana*, and prennials, including *Aster x frikartii* 'Mönch' and *Salvia verticillata* 'Purple Rain'.

## Ann-Marie's tips for a sloping site

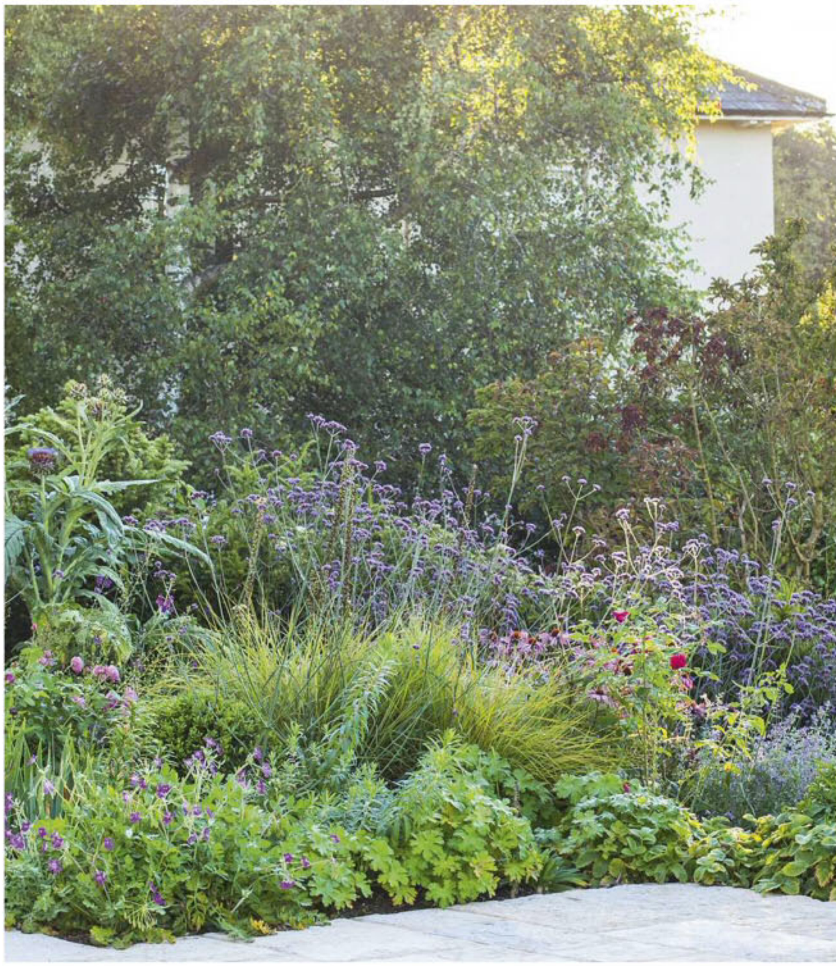
**Levels are a challenge** and where possible I prefer not to use retaining walls – not only are they costly, but they can really break up a garden's flow even when planted above and below.

**A sloping border allows a tumble of plants** where you can play with the height of plants to create an unusual effect. Tall plants, such as *Verbena bonariensis,* can almost appear to be understorey planting.

**There is a lot of natural run-off with slopes** – they are drier at the top than the bottom, so the right plant in the right place is key.

**Installing irrigation when the garden is laid out** will avoid plant losses in dry weather, where watering by hand might be awkward.

**Hard landscaping** almost always includes a flat area of terracing – using the same material for steps makes the garden more cohesive allowing one area to fade into the next.



▷ and umbrella on the terrace," says Jackie. "We wanted to retain the view from the dining room of the garden and the landscape. We have different places we can sit and we can follow the sun round the house."

Steps descend from what Ann-Marie describes as a 'jostling jamboree of planting' around the terrace to a lawn separated from above and below by yew hedges that dip and rise, echoing the rolling landscape beyond. Curving Breedon gravel paths lead to the wildflower meadow and orchard in the lower garden.

The meadow was laid as a roll on to the chalky, free-draining soil, and the apple trees that stud it are a continuation of the orchard in the neighbouring garden, increasing the illusion of a single space. A long, curved bench separates the orchard from a group of amelanchiers that provides airy separation from the village green and adds seasonal interest. The couple revel in sharing the garden's beauty. "Every neighbour looks over the wall as they walk by," says Jackie, "and they love what they see." ☐

---

USEFUL INFORMATION

Shepherd's Cottage can be visited as part of the National Gardens Scheme. For next year's dates, visit ngs.org.uk

**Clockwise from top left**

**Tall *Cynara cardunculus*** and *Verbena bonariensis* frame Ann-Marie's 'jostling jamboree of planting' around the terrace, which also includes *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus' and *Rosa* 'Reine Victoria'.

**Irrigation was installed during the garden build** to ensure the plants in the steeply sloping borders would establish well and continue to thrive.

**The curved wooden bench** provides a hidden seating area in the orchard where Jackie and Alan can sit unseen by passersby.

**An open terrace** creates a more flexible space that allows a view from the house to the landscape beyond.

## 12 of Ann-Marie's key plants for a semi-rural scheme

**1 *Aster* x *frikartii* 'Mönch'**
A long-lived presence in the summer garden, the lavender-blue flowers continuing into October. 90cm. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b†.

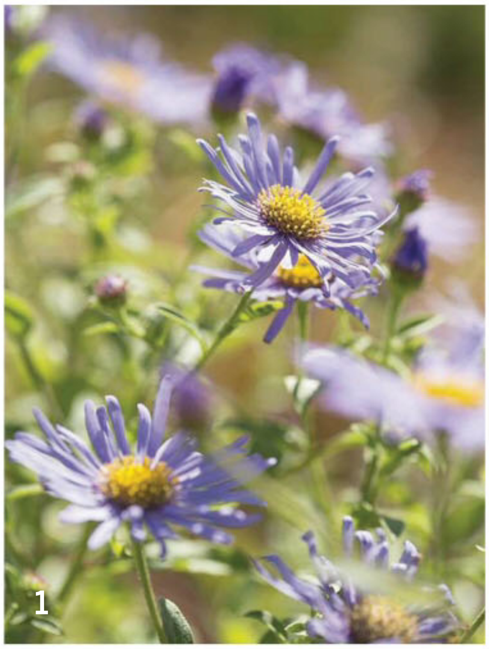
**2 *Anemanthele lessoniana***
Jackie hadn't considered using grasses until Ann-Marie included them in the design –she now loves the way they give the garden life. 90cm. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 8a-10b.

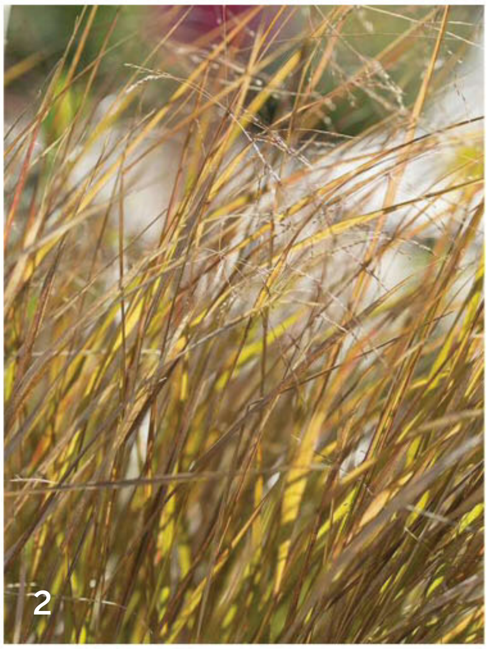
**3 *Centaurea* 'Jordy'**
Perennial cornflower with grey-green foliage and deep-burgundy flowers – removing spent stems encourages further flowering. 45cm. USDA 3a-9b.

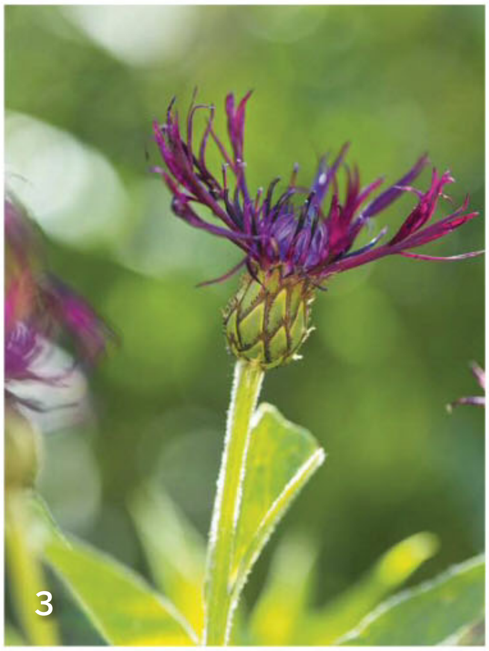
**4 *Verbena hastata* 'Lavender Spires'**
Shooting stars of flowers rocket upwards, contrasting with the cluster flowers of their relative *Verbena bonariensis*. 1.5m. RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b.

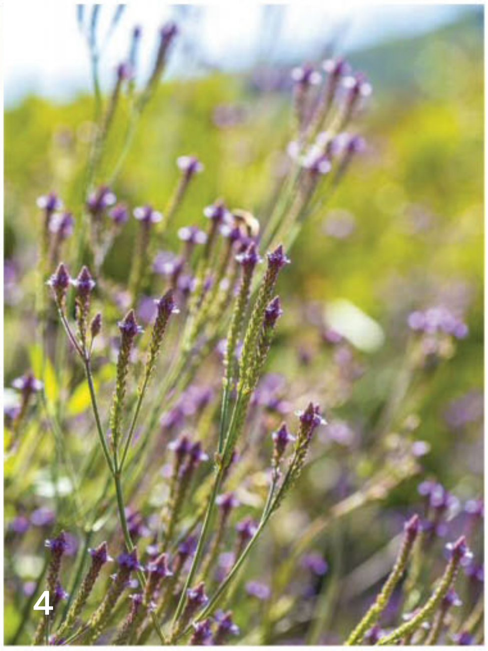
**5 *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus'**
Another long-flowering presence, helped by Jackie's 'obsessive' deadheading. 90cm. RHS H5, USDA 3a-9b.

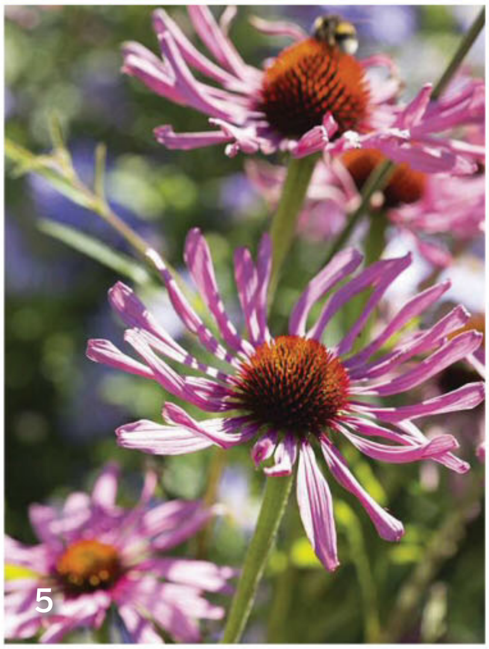
**6 *Daucus carota***
The wild carrot is one of the star performers in the meadow. 90cm. USDA 3a-9b.

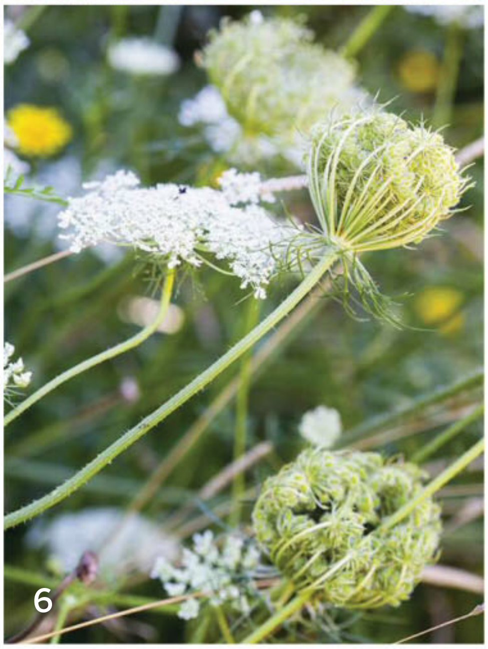






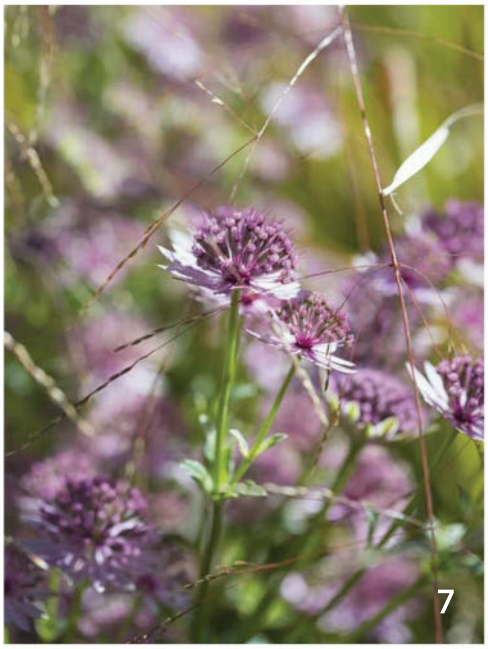


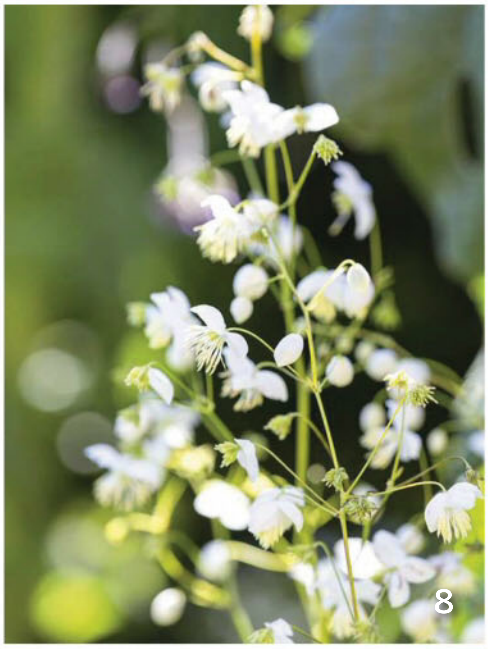


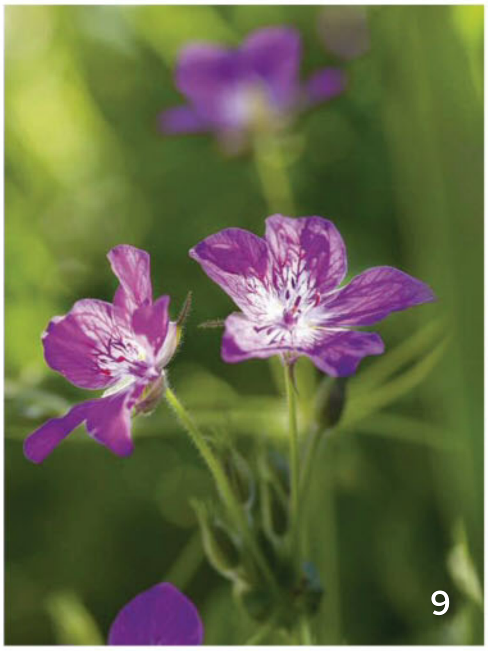


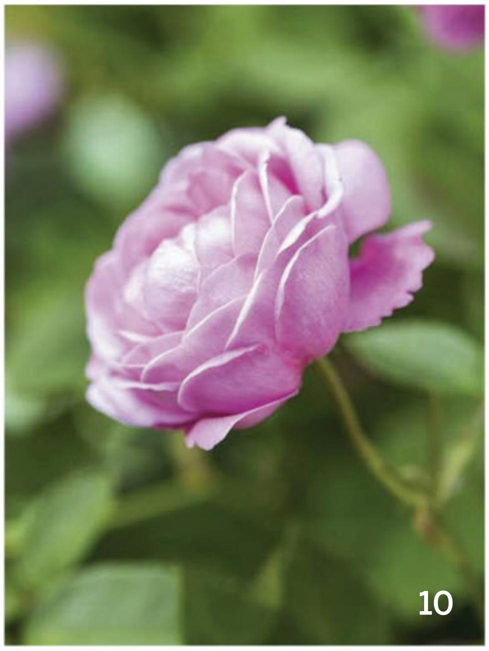
---

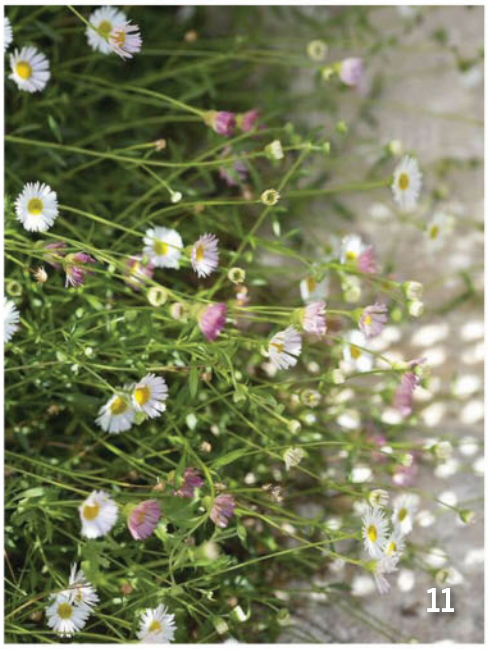
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

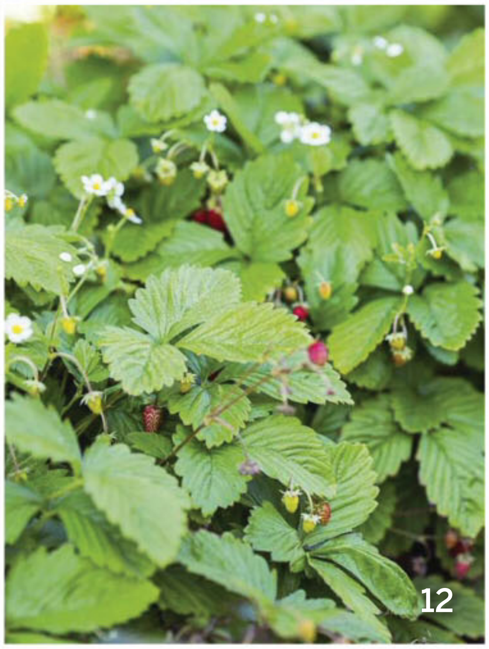












**7 *Astrantia* 'Roma'**
A vigorous pink cultivar that flowers for longer than most of its kind. It is an ideal companion for grasses. 50cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 4a-7b.

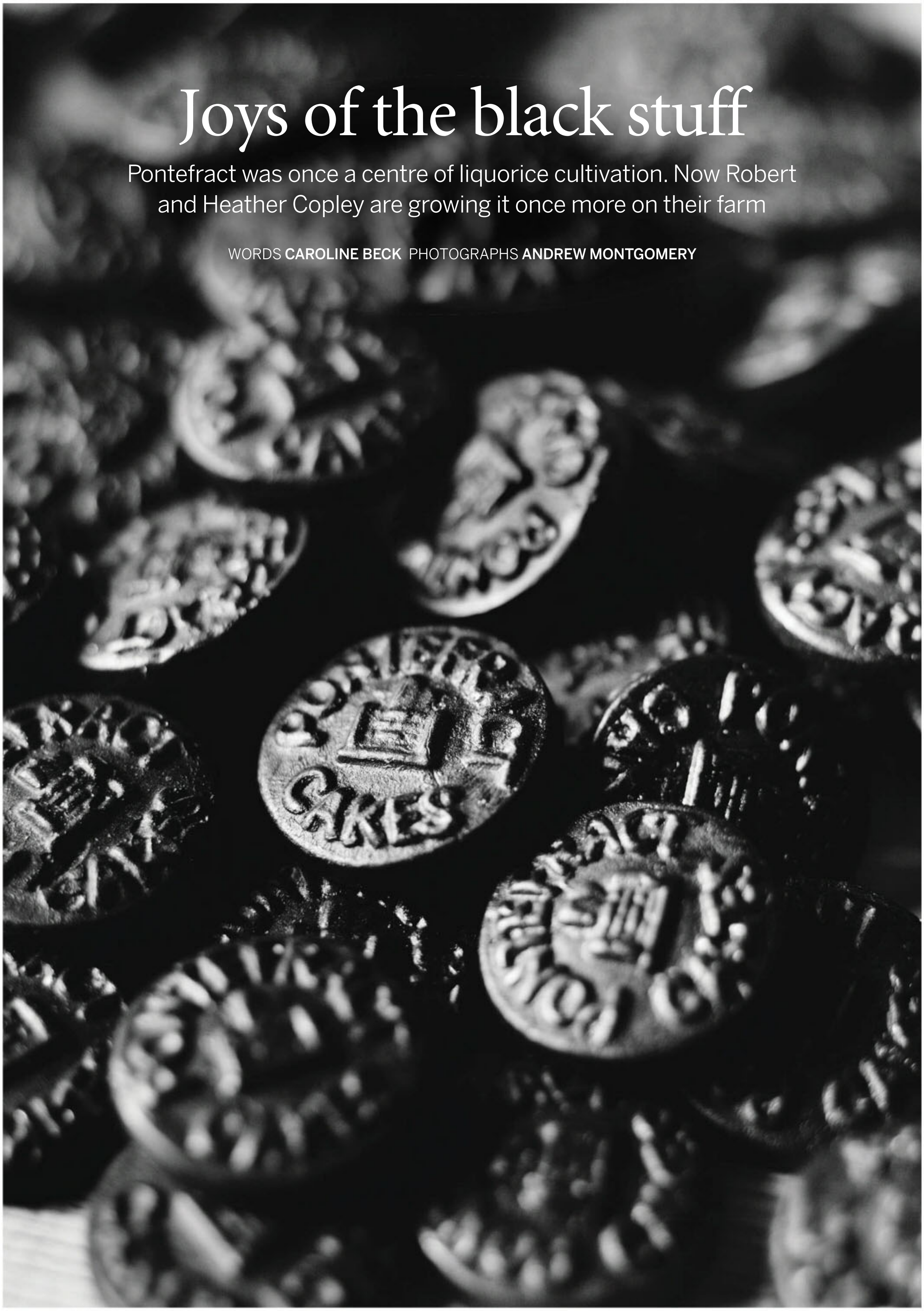
**8 *Thalictrum aquilegiifolium* 'Splendide White'**
Tall, elegant and airy and rises above the surrounding lower-growing, herbaceous plants. 90cm. USDA 3a-9b.

**9 *Erodium manescavii***
Related to the hardy geranium, with cascading foliage and deep-pink flowers produced over many months. 50cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 6a-9b.

**10 *Rosa* 'Reine Victoria'**
Intensely fragrant and repeat-flowering; Jackie had never previously grown roses and wanted them included in the beds and trained against the cottage walls. 1.5m. USDA 5a-10a.

**11 *Erigeron karvinskianus***
Fleabane with daisy-like flowers that self-seeds prolifically, softening the edges of paths and taking up residence in walls. 50cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 6a-9b.

**12 *Fragaria vesca***
This alpine strawberry grows happily and attractively in the beds and provides Jackie with plentiful picking opportunities. 50cm. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.



# Joys of the black stuff

Pontefract was once a centre of liquorice cultivation. Now Robert and Heather Copley are growing it once more on their farm

WORDS **CAROLINE BECK** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREW MONTGOMERY**

**This page** Robert Copley harvesting the first crop of liquorice grown on the farm. Records show that the roots can grow up to eight metres long with the first harvest ready within five years.

**Facing page** The Pontefract, or Pomfret, cake is stamped with a stylised image of Pontefract Castle, a design that hasn't changed in almost 400 years.

> *"Britons have had a taste for liquorice for nearly a thousand years, when it is thought that Crusaders returning from the Middle East brought it back with them for medicinal purposes"*

Liquorice is a black and white issue, its bitter-sweet taste causing you to either salivate or shudder. I was in the latter camp, the very smell enough to make me feel queasy, but a campaigning husband and wife farming team, Robert and Heather Copley, have converted me. After spending a morning with them harvesting 'wet' liquorice from their farm near Pontefract and eating the root straight from the ground, I can confidently declare that I'm a liquorice convert, having discovered, by the action of chewing it slowly, a fresh taste somewhere between sweetness and salt. Robert and Heather are not the only fans. They've been approached by perfumiers, tea producers, artisan brewers and top chefs across the country, all eager for something partly exotic and partly nostalgic, and about as far away from the stick-to-the-roof-of-your-mouth childhood sweets, as you can get.

*Glycyrrhiza glabra* (literally 'sweet root') is a member of the pea family that originates in the east Mediterranean and southwest Asia. Britons have had a taste for 'Spanish' (as it is colloquially known), for nearly a thousand years, when it's thought that Crusaders returning from the Middle East brought it back with them mainly for medicinal purposes – it's a powerful anti-inflammatory, as well as aiding digestion and soothing coughs, headaches and colds. The monks at Pontefract Priory grew it extensively in medieval times, the deep, sandy soil mimicking its native growing conditions. In 1700 a local chemist, George Dunhill, mixed the root with sugar to form a lozenge, the origination of the jet-black, embossed Pontefract cake still made today (but with imported liquorice). The town became synonymous with liquorice, with residents growing it on plots of land, or garths, behind their houses. During the 19th century, the town employed thousands of people in its commercial manufacture, but anecdotal evidence suggests that during the Second World War, American GIs introduced a treat-starved nation to chocolate, sounding the death knell of liquorice. Local producers went out of business until none were left. Until now.

The Copley family has been in dairy and arable farming for over 140 years. A little over a decade ago, Heather, an agronomist by training, started hearing stories from their farm shop customers about eating wet liquorice as children. "They'd reminisce about chewing the root and the amazing taste. As many of them were in their eighties, we thought if we don't revive this, it'll die out forever." They began growing it experimentally ten years ago, with roots sourced from local people, many of whom still grow it in their gardens. It takes five years to get a crop, but disaster struck after four, when contractors accidentally dug it up. "We replanted it in a safer spot up the hill. Our next problem was rabbits, who were mad about the sweet roots, so we had to put up an electric fence."

After another three years Heather couldn't wait any longer. "I had to go and see what it was doing. The root was about 30cm long and translucent, with almost a honey taste." Last September the Copleys' patience paid off and the first substantial roots were harvested with a taste so different from standard liquorice that it was like another crop. As we stood in the fields at first light chewing on the fresh root, Heather told me that if you've got the right conditions – a deep, free-draining sandy soil that warms up quickly in spring and gets plenty of sun – the plant will thrive. And how it has. She dug up a root two metres long, unravelling it like something out of children's fairy tale, and still didn't reach the end. Historical records show that eight metres wouldn't be unusual. The Copleys' ambition is to bring liquorice growing back to the area and judging by the reaction to their first harvest, they might have just rediscovered its sweet spot. □

---

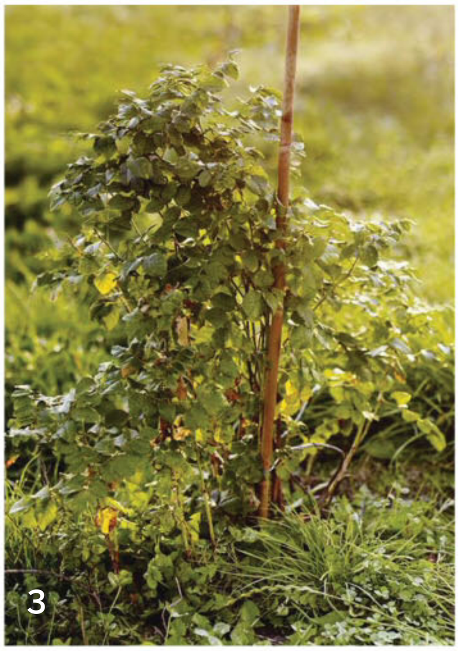
**USEFUL INFORMATION**

The Copleys sell their wet liquorice and other liquorice products at their farm shop, Ravensknowle Farm, Pontefract Road, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF7 5AF. Tel 01977 600200, farmercopleys.co.uk

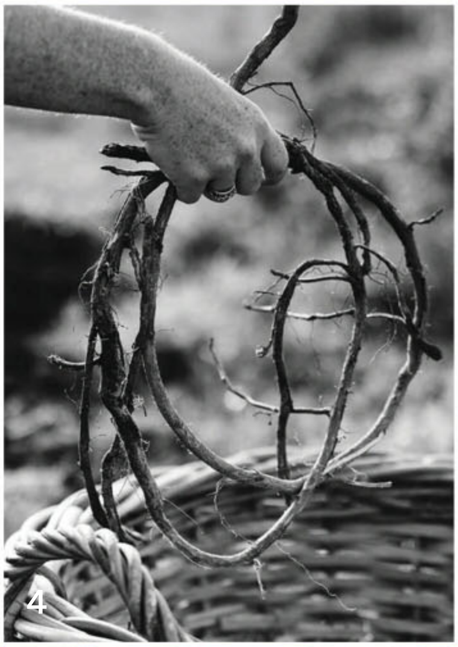
GREAT NEWSOME
Liquorice Lads Stout
Liquorice Stout
abv 4.3%

1

2



3



4

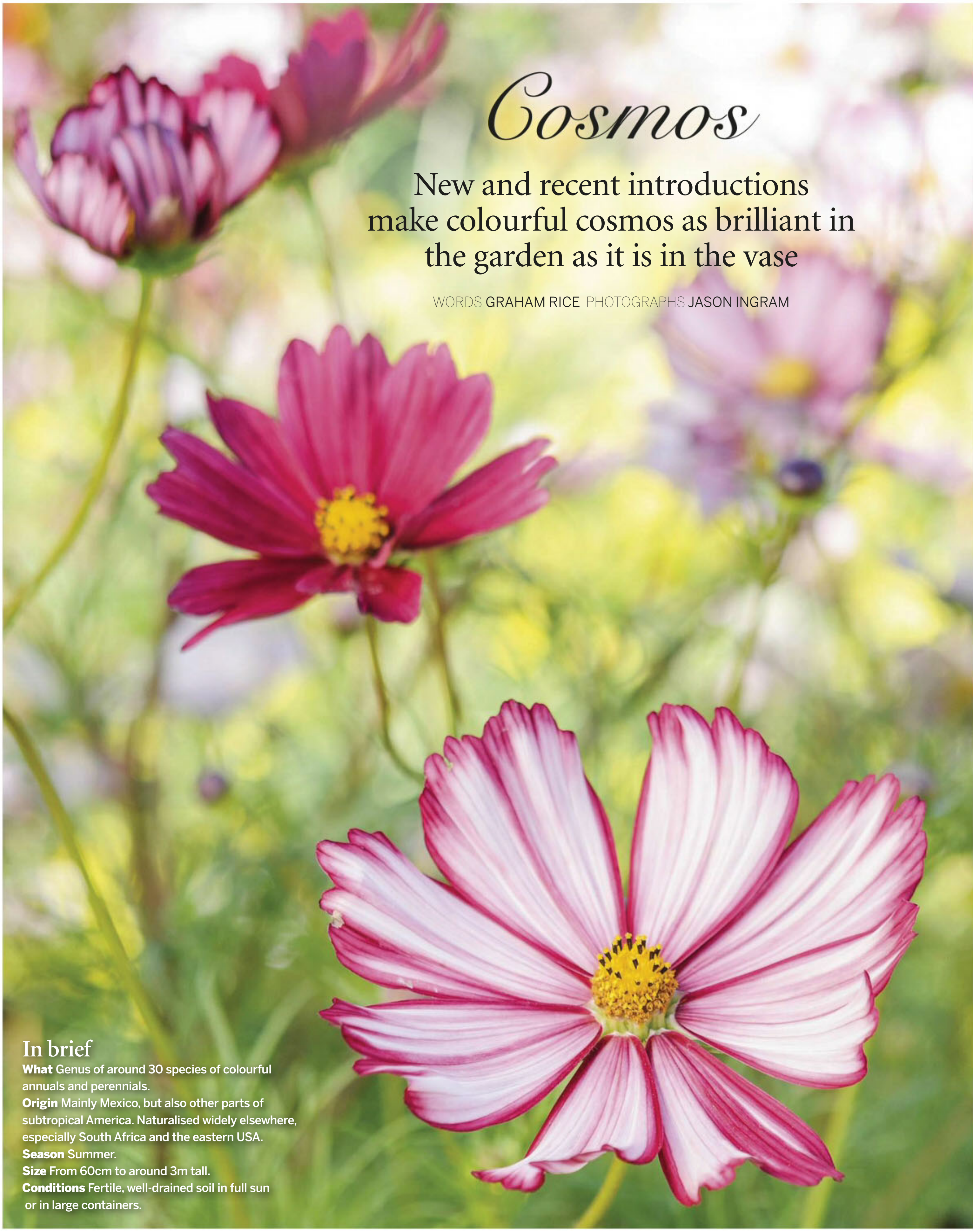
**1** The liquorice stout, brewed with the Copleys' liquorice by Great Newsome Brewery, Hull, won gold at the World Beer Awards 2016.
**2** Heather and Robert Copley on their farm near Pontefract. The area has a long association with liquorice growing.
**3** The plants grow to about a metre high, but rarely flower in this country, so the energy goes into root production.
**4** The long snaking roots of the liquorice plant are harvested by hand.
**5** Most liquorice sweets are now made with liquorice imported from Turkey.
**6** The 'wet' roots are cut into sections, cleaned of soil, and sold to chew upon. Liquorice aids digestion and soothes coughs and sore throats.
**7** The roots are deep and long, but regenerate quickly. Apart from rabbits, the plant seems to have no pests.
**8** Heather, digging up her first crop.

5

6

7

8



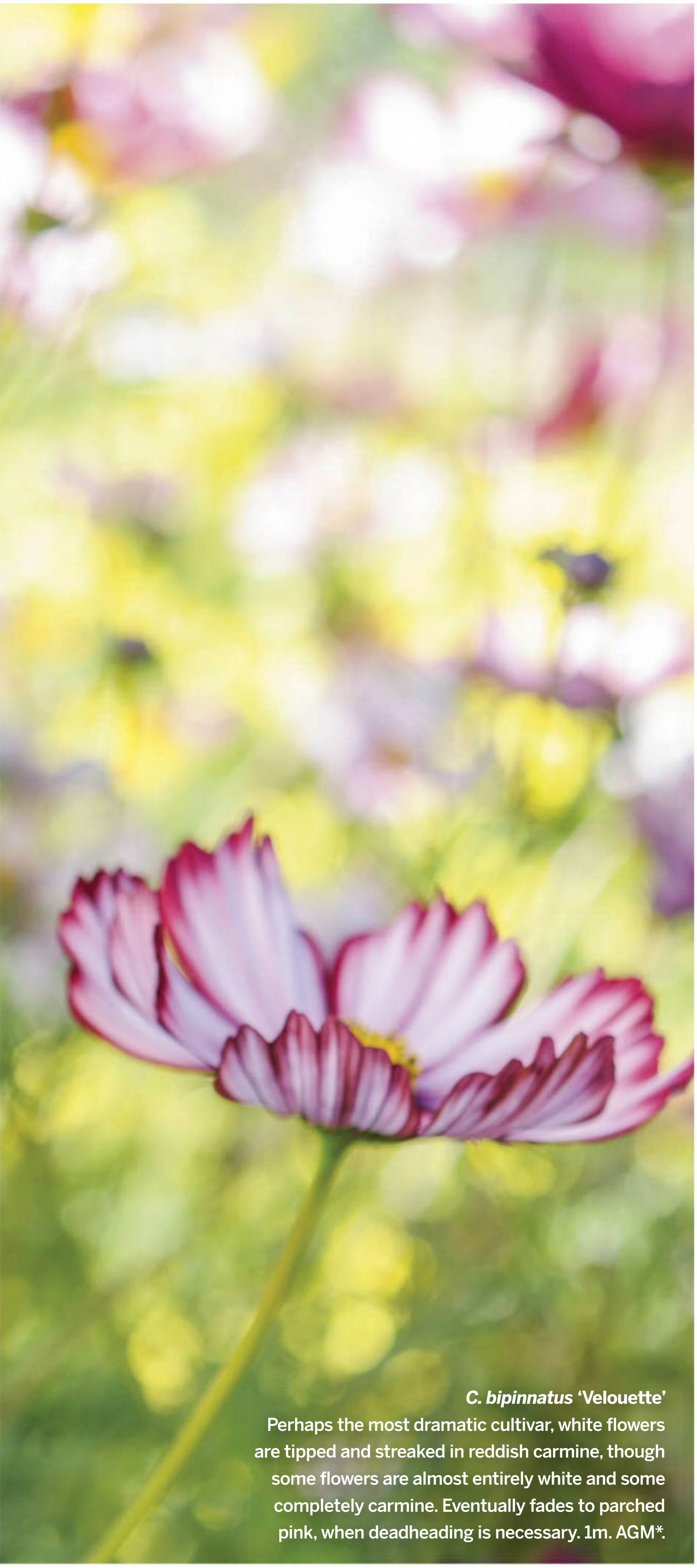
# Cosmos

## New and recent introductions make colourful cosmos as brilliant in the garden as it is in the vase

WORDS **GRAHAM RICE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

### In brief

**What** Genus of around 30 species of colourful annuals and perennials.
**Origin** Mainly Mexico, but also other parts of subtropical America. Naturalised widely elsewhere, especially South Africa and the eastern USA.
**Season** Summer.
**Size** From 60cm to around 3m tall.
**Conditions** Fertile, well-drained soil in full sun or in large containers.



***C. bipinnatus* 'Velouette'**
Perhaps the most dramatic cultivar, white flowers are tipped and streaked in reddish carmine, though some flowers are almost entirely white and some completely carmine. Eventually fades to parched pink, when deadheading is necessary. 1m. AGM*.

**Graham Rice** is a distinguished plantsman and garden writer. He is the author of the RHS New Plants blog and the Transatlantic Gardener blog.

For too long, annuals have been looked down upon by some gardeners as not in the same league as perennials. "Oh, it's just an annual," people say dismissively. Well, last summer's display of almost 90 annual cosmos at the RHS Garden at Wisley made it clear what valuable plants they are.

There are about 30 species of cosmos, annuals and perennials, growing wild across subtropical America, and in Mexico in particular; two species extend their range into southern USA. The familiar garden cosmos, *C. bipinnatus*, grows naturally in rough meadows and scrub in Mexico, but has also established itself farther afield including much of southern and eastern USA as well as South Africa and Australia.

The only other cosmos species widely grown is the perennial *C. sulphureus*, with orange or yellow flowers, usually grown as an annual, and the popular tuberous perennial *C. atrosanguineus*, with its chocolate-coloured and chocolate-scented daisies.

*C. bipinnatus* is a vigorous annual reaching from 60cm to 3m or more, with stout upright stems carrying large, attractive, fresh-green foliage repeatedly divided into thread-like segments. From midsummer into autumn, large golden-centred daisies open in a wide range of pink and rich-red shades with white. Last year saw the introduction of the first effective yellow-flowered variants.

One of the most intriguing features of *C. bipinnatus* is its range of flower forms from fully double, to flowers with quilled petals and various semi-double forms as well as singles. The petals may be in pure colours or edged or streaked in darker shades or feature rings around the golden eye, creating some striking bi-colours. These features make them unusually interesting both in the garden and in a vase, but there's an unexpected factor to keep in mind.

Cosmos seed is not a high-value crop, so time is rarely spent ensuring top quality in ▷

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

▷ plants grown from seed of older cultivars that do not attract high prices. This was borne out in the Wisley display, where old cultivars, such as 'Sensation Mixed', 'Purity', 'Sea Shells', 'Dazzler', 'Daydream' and 'Versailles Tetra', flowered late and sparsely, often on uncomfortably tall plants. I would not recommend them and instead would look at new and recent introductions where a slightly higher price translates into better quality. The one group where this approach fails is the double-flowered Double Click Series, where not one cultivar consistently produces double flowers.

The British-bred Apollo Series in carmine, white and pink is the best choice for containers. 'Sea Shells', with each petal rolled into a tube, is striking and especially good in vases, but on the Wisley evidence it deteriorated badly; try the shorter Hummingbird Series instead.

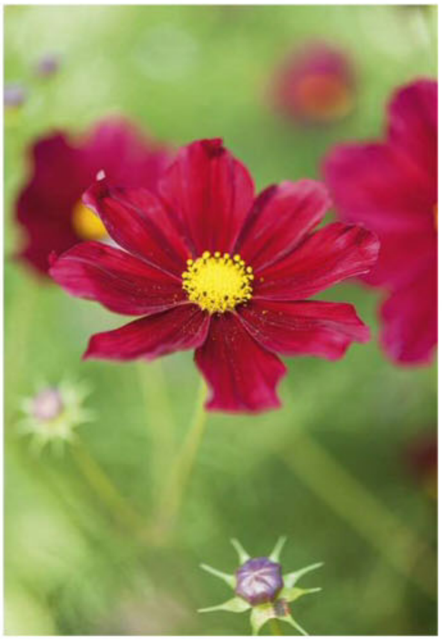
Recent introductions also bring us new colours and patterns. Single-flowered, single-coloured 'Rubenza' in deep red, and 'Xanthos' and 'Lemonade' in lemon yellow, stand out. Of the striped types, 'Velouette' in white and dark red is dramatic. 'Capriola' is my favourite, with white petals edged in pink and prolific flowers on 1.2m plants. Along with others in softer colours, it is ideal among shrub roses or perennials; taller types are good at the back of beds or as a temporary screen.

The other species grown as an annual is *C. sulphureus*. In the wild it may reach more than 2m in height, but garden cultivars usually range from 45cm to 1.2m. The foliage is more broadly divided than that of *C. bipinnatus* and with smaller flowers in the red/orange/yellow range, single or semi-double.

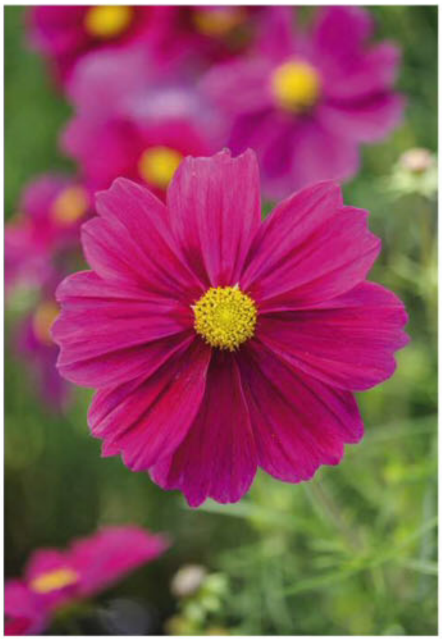
There is much less variation in *C. sulphureus*, but its fiery yellow, orange and almost scarlet tones are invaluable in hot garden combinations with the yellow-streaked and orange-flowered *Canna* 'Striata', or with *Ricinus* 'Impala'. In some cultivars the flowers are single, in some semi-double; I like the sharp colour on the neat, semi-double 'Limara Lemon', and the subtle orange overlay of the gold flowers on the tall 'Cosmic Red'.

So don't dismiss these easy, productive flowers just because they are annuals; they really are worth growing.

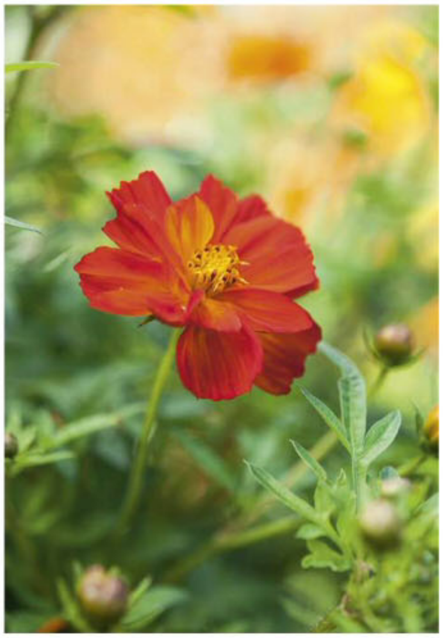
• Graham's recommendations for cosmos continue over the next six pages.



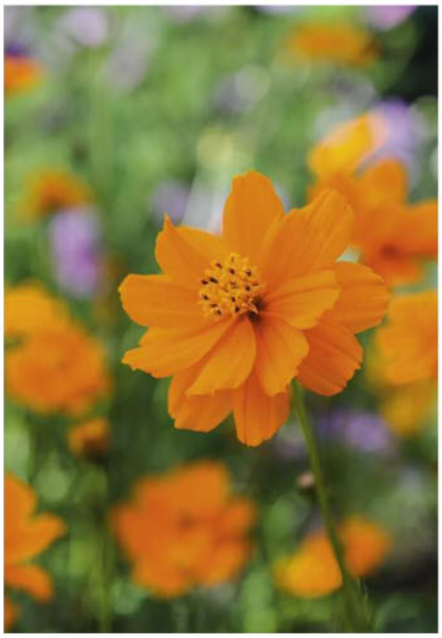
***C. bipinnatus* 'Rubenza'**
Deep-red, scarlet or deep-pink single flowers on tall but prolific plants. Rich colouring and good with silver foliage, the flowers age harmoniously but eventually need regular deadheading. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H3†.



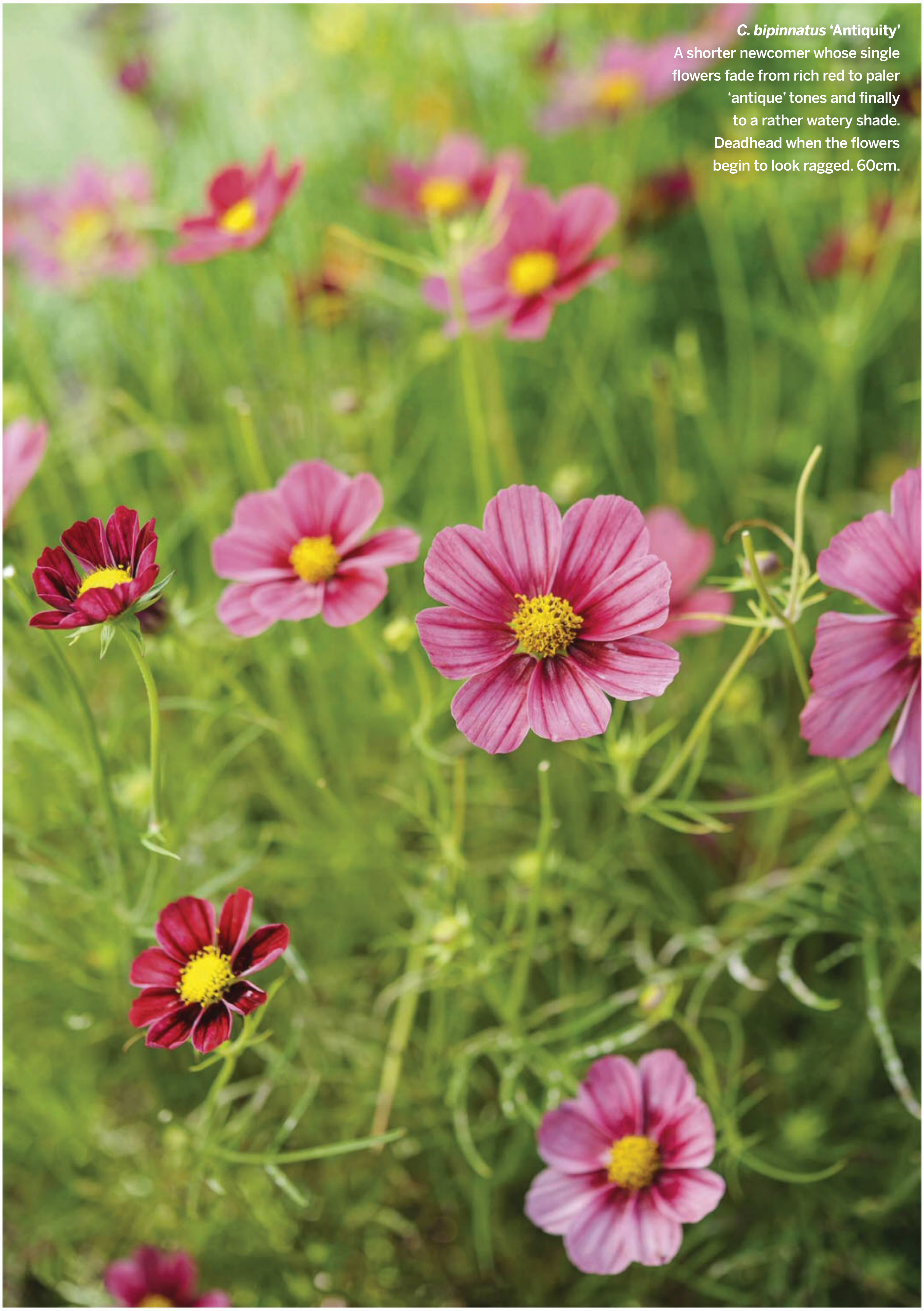
***C. bipinnatus* 'Apollo Carmine'**
One of the best in the Wisley display, short plants carry rich, carmine single flowers that hold their colour well and fade harmoniously into pinkish tones. Good flower shape and size, ideal in large containers. 60cm. AGM.



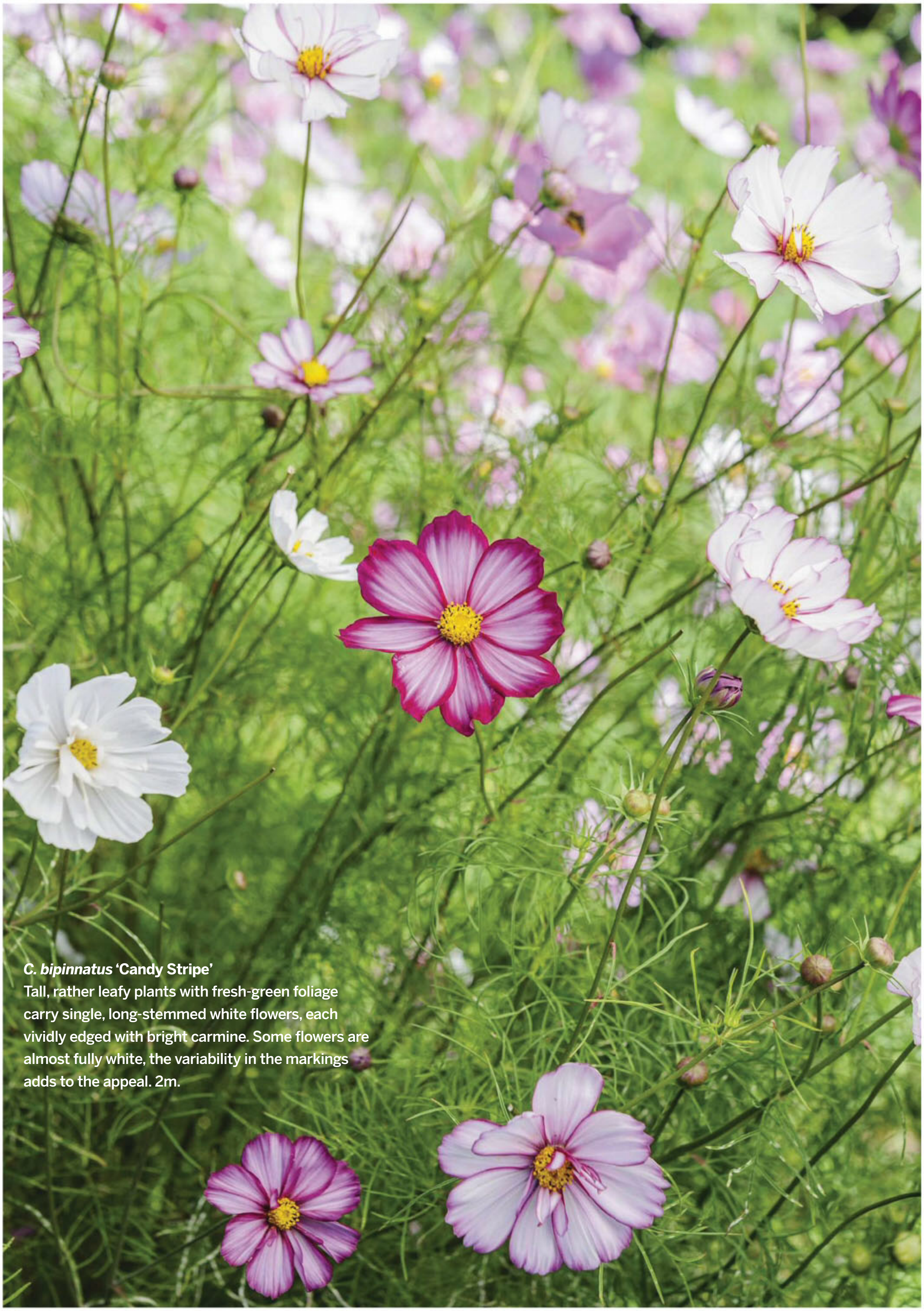
***C. sulphureus* 'Brightness Red'**
Semi-double flowers in vivid reddish orange, with a few orange-flowered plants mixed in. Flowers are sparse at first but prolific later on, and open at various heights on the plant, not only at the top. 50cm. AGM.



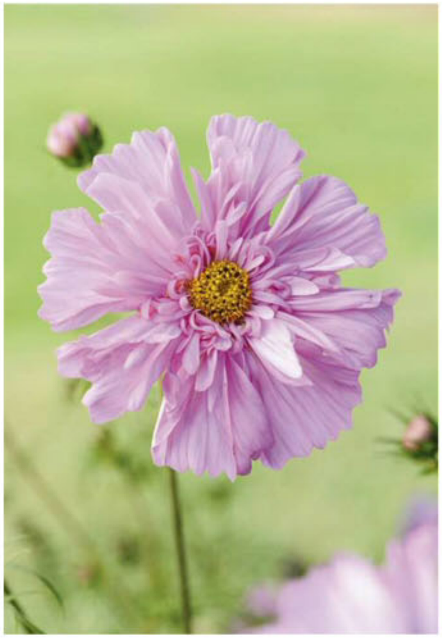
***C. sulphureus* 'Carioca'**
Wonderful, glowing-orange single flowers on plants with appealingly open growth, slow to start but prolific later. Lovely interplanted among dark-leaved cannas or dahlias for contrast in habit and colour. 1m.



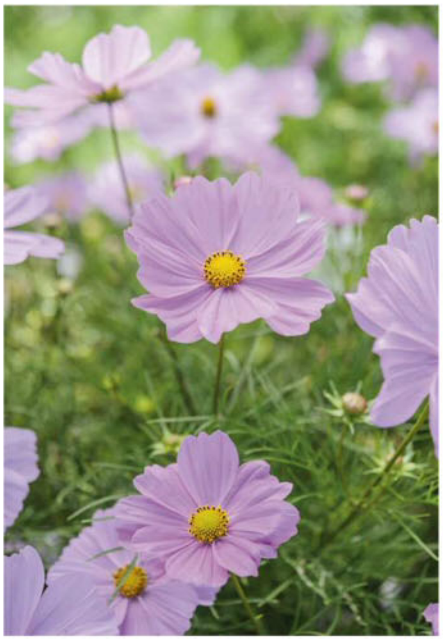
***C. bipinnatus*** **'Antiquity'**
A shorter newcomer whose single flowers fade from rich red to paler 'antique' tones and finally to a rather watery shade. Deadhead when the flowers begin to look ragged. 60cm.



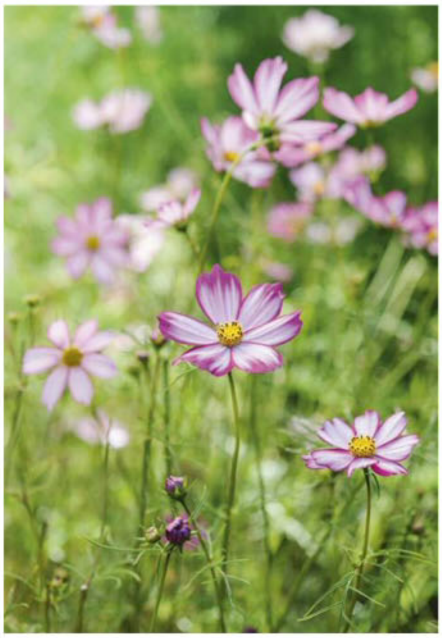
***C. bipinnatus*** **'Candy Stripe'**
Tall, rather leafy plants with fresh-green foliage carry single, long-stemmed white flowers, each vividly edged with bright carmine. Some flowers are almost fully white, the variability in the markings adds to the appeal. 2m.



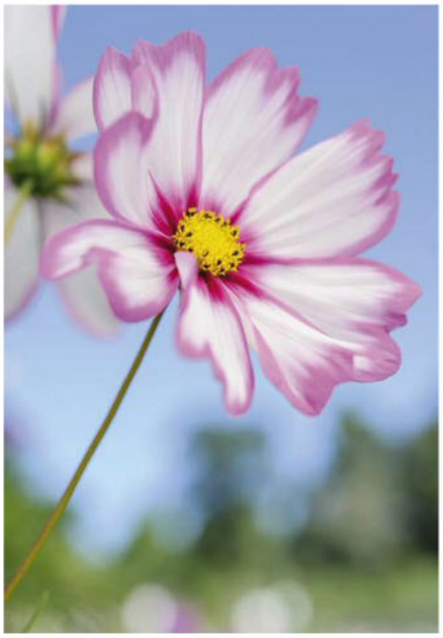
**C. bipinnatus 'Double Click Rose Bonbon'**
Double-flowered forms can be disappointing. This is the pick from Wisley because although there were very few doubles, the singles and fluted flowers matched perfectly in colour to create a fascinating, rosy-pink blend. 1.8m.



***C. bipinnatus* 'Apollo Pink'**
Nicely rippled, rose-pink single flowers face upward from uniformly neat plants, the colour hardly fading before the petals start to drop. An improvement on the similar, but now unacceptably variable, 'Sonata Pink'. 60cm.



***C. bipinnatus* 'Cosimo Red-White'**
Like a shorter version of 'Candy Stripe', the striking plants are best early and mid-season, while the compact foliage allows the flowers to bloom unhidden. Cruder in colour than the softer, but taller, 'Capriola'. 60cm.



***C. bipinnatus* 'Capriola'**
My favourite, the white flowers are exquisite with their unique pattern: each petal is boldly tipped and edged in magenta pink with a similar ring around the eye. Sadly, it can be variable, and there are some 'off' types. 1.2m.

## The chocolate cosmos

First grown in Britain by Thompson & Morgan in the late 1880s, the chocolate cosmos, *Cosmos atrosanguineus*, faded from cultivation in the 1940s. Its current popularity stems from Kew receiving it in the late 1970s and distributing it to nurseries. The 4-5cm chocolate-coloured daisies combined with its luscious chocolate fragrance and its perennial, rather than annual, nature soon established its popularity.

The only drawback with this species is that it is self-sterile. The seed only develops after cross-pollination with a different individual plant – and only the one clone was grown in Britain, so it never set seed. It was propagated by cuttings and tissue culture and has proved a reliable plant for sunny summer containers as well as well-drained, sunny sites where its small, dahlia-like tubers sometimes overwinter. With individual flowers on long, willowy stems it is also a valuable, if somewhat demure, cut flower.

In recent years, things have changed as new populations in Mexico have been found, seed has been produced and hybrids developed. Chocamocha (='Thomocha'), probably a hybrid, is less rich in colour and scent, while from New Zealand come Dark Secret (='3013/01'), Eclipse (='Hamcoec') and Spellbound (='Hamcosp'). Japanese breeders have even succeeded in crossing *Cosmos atrosanguineus* with *Cosmos sulphureus*, although the resulting plants have not yet been introduced.

Now, we have come full circle with the introduction of the seed-raised 'Black Magic', which, although variable in colour, flower form and size, and intensity of scent, will lead to more impressive seed-raised forms and new hybrids.

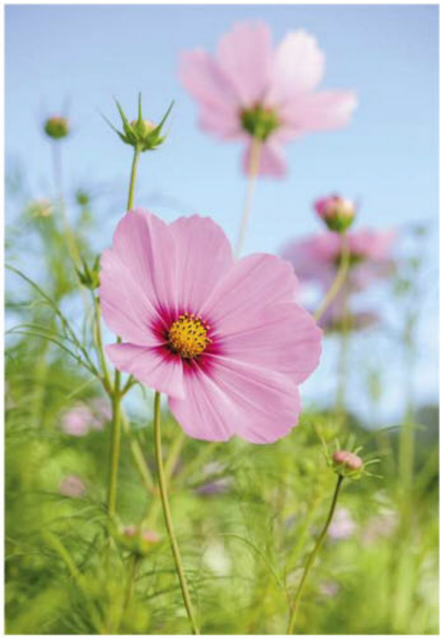
## Cultivation

- In the garden, both *Cosmos bipinnatus* and *Cosmos sulphureus* are sun lovers, enjoying fertile but well-drained soil in full sun. Both can be treated like hardy annuals and sown where they are to flower, but sowing outside should be delayed until the middle of May. Sowing in pots in April, transplanting to individual 7cm pots and then planting outside in late May or June will produce earlier flowers. Space the plants 30-60cm apart, depending on their eventual height.

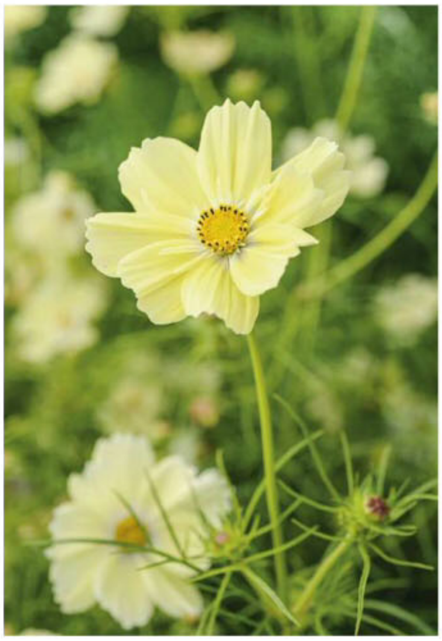
- Support may well be necessary for these plants: smaller cultivars can be supported with brushwood, while taller cultivars need the more solid support of canes and twine. Mildew may prove a problem if the plants are not thinned out or if they are grown in very sheltered situations; free air movement is the best preventative measure in this case.
- Both *Cosmos bipinnatus* and *Cosmos sulphureus* are good as cut flowers; pick them when the petals are starting to open (but are not fully open) and change the water every day. Cutting or regular deadheading is crucial to maintaining a continuing display of flowers into September and even October.

## Suppliers

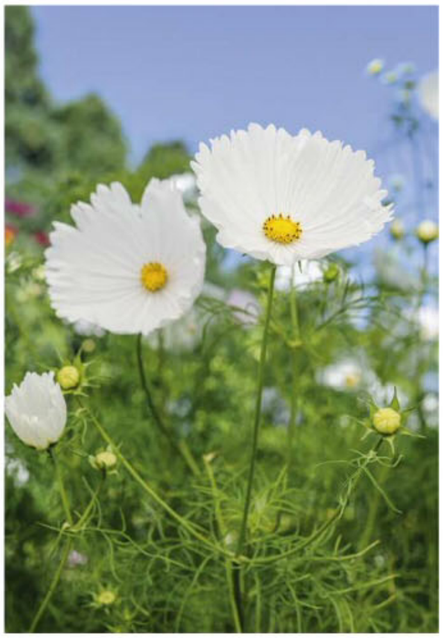
- **Chiltern Seeds** (seeds)
  Crowmarsh Battle Barns,
  114 Preston Crowmarsh,
  Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6SL.
  Tel 01491 824675,
  chilternseeds.co.uk
- **Crocus**
  Online seed and plant supplier.
  Tel 01344 578000,
  crocus.co.uk
- **Mr Fothergill's** (seeds and plants)
  Gazeley Road, Kentford,
  Suffolk CB8 7QB.
  Tel 0333 777 3936,
  mr-fothergills.co.uk
- **Plants of Distinction** (seeds)
  Church Farm Cottage, The Street,
  Framsden, Near Stowmarket,
  Suffolk IP14 6HG.
  Tel 01449 721720,
  plantsofdistinction.co.uk
- **Thompson & Morgan**
  Online seed and plant supplier.
  Tel 0844 573 1818,
  thompson-morgan.com



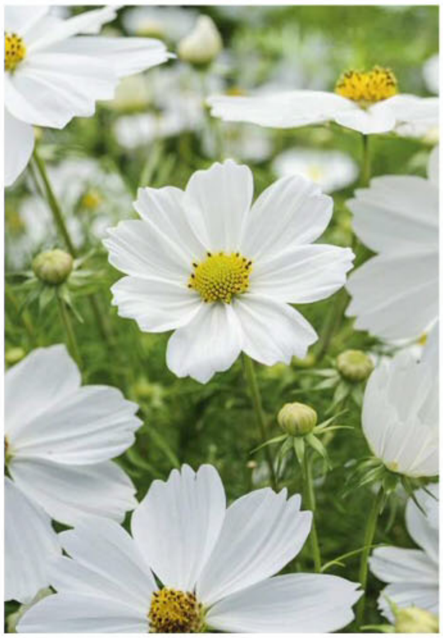
***C. bipinnatus*** **'Versailles Dark Rose'**
The best of the tallest types; the large, single, rich-rose flowers have a dark-red ring around the golden eye. Too tall and leafy for many gardens, but good at the back of the border and for cutting. 2.5m.



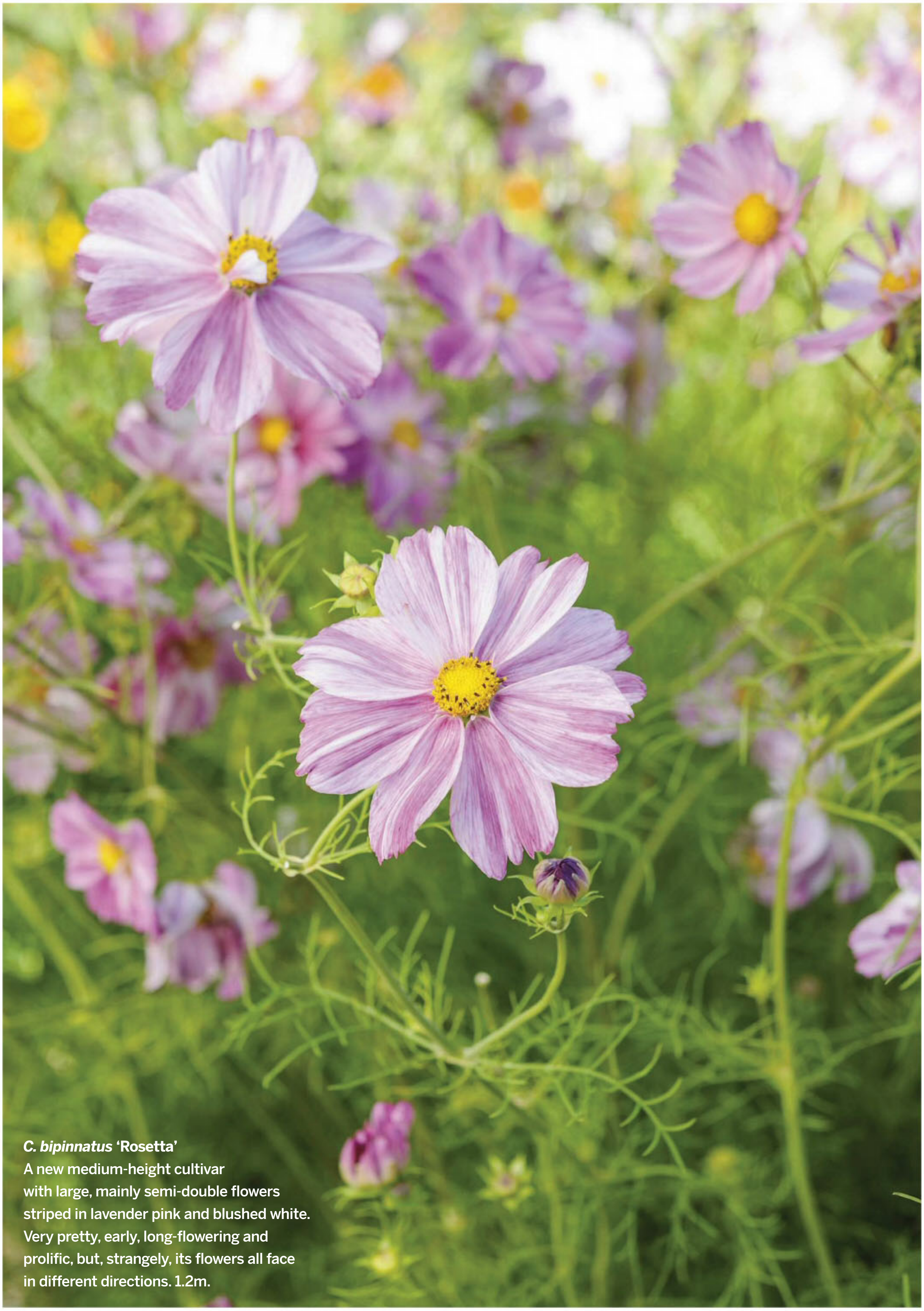
***C. bipinnatus*** **'Xanthos'**
Very pretty Fleuroselect Gold Medal winner. The small, mostly single, primrose-yellow flowers have a neat, white ring around the golden eye; a few flowers have extra petals and there are a few white flowers. 1m.



***C. bipinnatus*** **'Cupcakes White'**
Cupped flowers with white petals fused into huge bowls, but with some pink-tinted and split flowers. Alternatively, 'Cupcakes Mixed' has a balance of white and pink shades. Voted People's Favourite by Wisley visitors. 1.2m.



***C. bipinnatus*** **'Apollo White'**
Large, flat, upward-facing, pure-white flowers on plants of uniform height, 'Apollo White' flowers consistently from June until well into the autumn. The Apollo Series is the new standard in short cosmos. 60cm. AGM.



***C. bipinnatus*** **'Rosetta'**
A new medium-height cultivar with large, mainly semi-double flowers striped in lavender pink and blushed white. Very pretty, early, long-flowering and prolific, but, strangely, its flowers all face in different directions. 1.2m.

# Lord Howick

## Searching for wild tree species to include in the arboretum at his ancestral home, has taken Charlie Howick on adventures around the world

WORDS CAROLINE BECK PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Lord Charles Howick's introduction to gardening wasn't promising. "As children, we were told to cut the daffodils in the spring to sell at the gate. It was a terrible bore." As he approaches his 80th birthday, Charlie Howick, as he prefers to be known, is internationally respected as the creator of an extraordinary arboretum at his ancestral home, just half a mile from the sea in Alnwick, Northumberland. Inside a broad shelter belt of Scots pine, oak and beech, thousands of wild trees thrive, all grown from seeds gathered from across continents, making Howick one of the largest private collections of wild-origin plants in the country. To walk there at any time of the year is astonishing, but in autumn when colours flare under wide Northumbrian skies, it's transporting.

The 60-acre estate was planted largely in the early 1800s by Charles, 2nd Earl Grey (one-time Prime Minister and architect of the Reform Act of 1832, and the man after whom the famous tea is named). But the spirit of place comes from Lord Howick's grandparents, Charles and Mabel Grey, who lived there from 1917, changing it from a formal Victorian garden to one with a much wilder feel. "They were both formidable gardeners, heavily influenced by the naturalistic movement pioneered by William Robinson, and through Mabel I learned that foliage is as important as flower." The ethos sounds at odds with the botanically unique collection of trees that Lord Howick has built up, but its genius is that it's a living arboreal ark, a place of scientific research, but also a beautiful garden. Each of the 11,000 or so trees and shrubs are documented – where the parent plant was growing, when and by whom the seed was collected, and when it was planted – but anyone can experience it as simply a place in which to wander and lose yourself.

Charlie developed a taste for collecting tree seed from wild places in the early 1980s when he accompanied his friend Charles Erskine, the former head of the arboretum at Kew, on a month's plant-hunting trip to north America. "We flew in, hired a car, didn't really make any plans, and called at various botanical gardens and talked to the field officers with a list of what we wanted." This first buccaneering adventure whetted his appetite and in the next two decades he went on various seed collecting expeditions across the world to China, California, Japan, Korea, Tasmania, Nepal, New Zealand and the Caucasus. "We first went to China in 1988, and although Mao's influence was on the wane, almost everyone was still wearing Mao suits and we had minders wherever we went." He relished his expeditions there, and some of his most treasured trees now in the arboretum's Long Walk come from those expeditions. Among them is his favourite, the Chinese wingnut (*Pterocarya macroptera* var. *insignis*), which has walnut-like leaves and metre-long racemes that hang down in autumn. He still counts these visits to China among the most fascinating he has made. "It changed more quickly in the next 15 years than I could believe. I went there nine times in total, but then I started to get too old. I could get up the mountains, but always half an hour after everyone else. But I still get withdrawal symptoms every October."

He quickly learned that collecting wild seed was just the start of a long process. "It's a fraught task. You get the thing off the tree and think 'great', but then you have to protect it from mice, fungal attacks and a thousand other things. It's like the Grand National. You clear one hurdle only to be confronted by another." When he arrived back at Howick, the long process of germination began, with some species, such as juniper and viburnum, taking up to three years to germinate. He thinks the seed-treatment technique is over exaggerated. "If you want maximum germination you've got to be specific and do different things with acid and such, but if you have a decent volume and do something fairly basic to a chunk of them, you might only get five per cent germination, but that will be enough to plant."

The arboretum at Howick Hall opened on 1 April 2006 and although it is now his head gardener who goes on the expeditions, trees still have a special place in Lord Howick's heart. He modestly champions his collection and also serves on the committee at Westonbirt – the National Arboretum in Gloucestershire. "Every meeting though, we have a talk from the plant pathologist who tells us that there's a new disease coming in from somewhere or other. I used to get very gloomy about it, but now I'm fatalistic. There's a high chance that things are going to be wiped out for a time, but nature always comes back; not always in the lifespan of man, but eventually." ◻

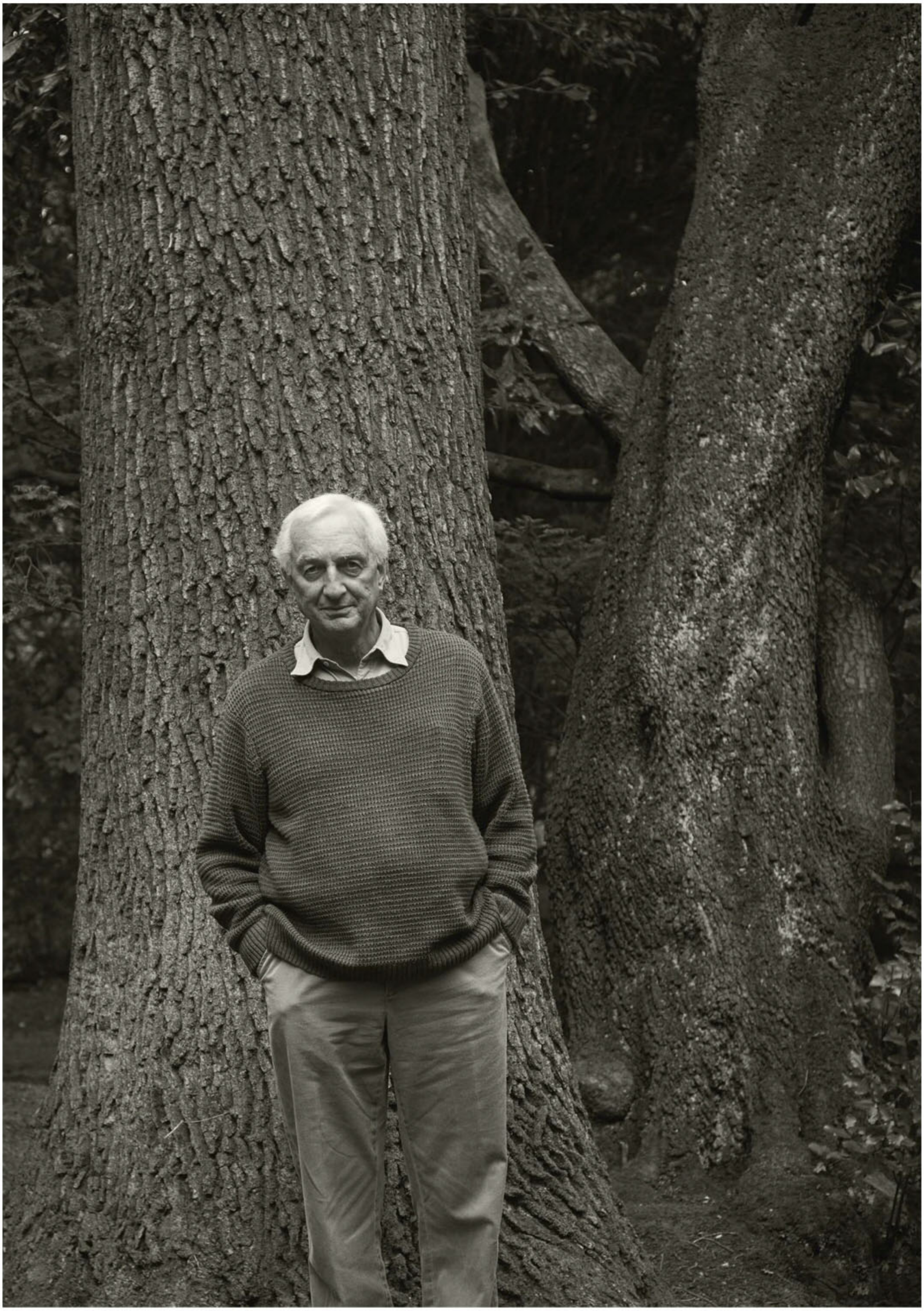
---

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Howick Hall Gardens, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 3LB.
Tel 01665 577285, howickhallgardens.org
Open from March to mid November.

**NEXT MONTH** Garden writer, Romke van de Kaa.

> *"We first went to China in 1988. Everyone was still wearing Mao suits and we had minders wherever we went"*



Gartenart
swimming ponds

*dive into nature*

To request a brochure please go to www.gartenart.co.uk or call 020 7183 3333.

"The water is amazing, it's like swimming in silk. We had a couple of dragonflies buzzing past us... you definitely feel you're one with nature.

There were lots of things we wanted to do to the house but this was the one thing that we felt everybody benefited from. Having the pond has made a big difference to the way we use the garden. We all love it."

Nigel & Mandy Keene *Basingstoke*

Gartenart Swimming Ponds
Unit 105 Screenworks,
22 Highbury Grove,
London N5 2EF
020 7183 3333
**www.gartenart.co.uk**

# Water in the garden

Water is an asset in any garden, but whether you want somewhere to swim, a natural pond or a reflective pool you'll need landscaping to match. Here are the best design ideas for every space

## Contents

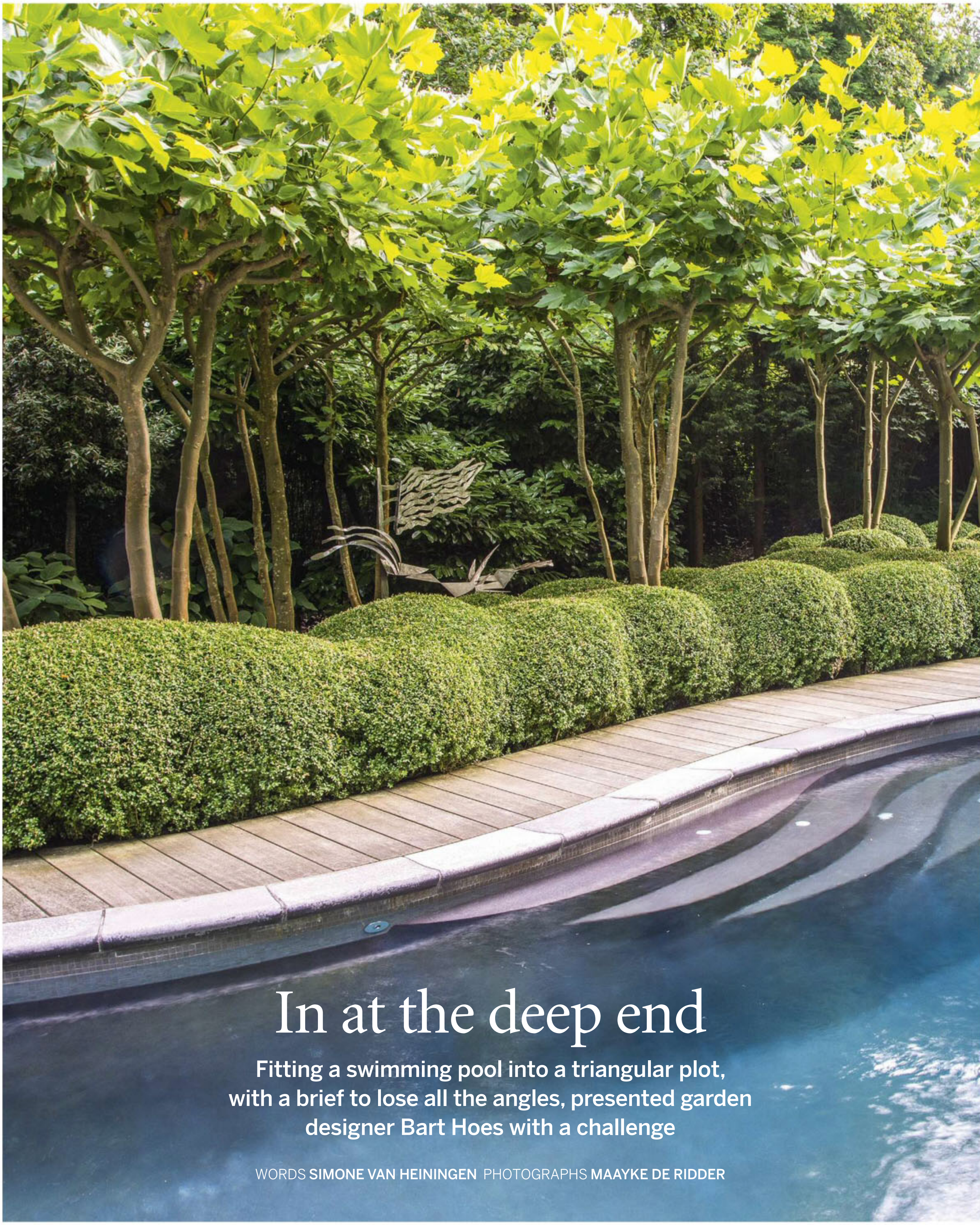
**70 In at the deep end**
The challenge of turning an awkward space into a stylish swimming pool garden

**74 To gaze at beauty**
A neglected swimming pool gets a natural makeover to match the garden's glorious views

**80 Reflections on nature**
In a small space, a sleek mirror pool reflects superb planting

**84 Eight ideas for pools and ponds**
More ideas for bringing water into the garden

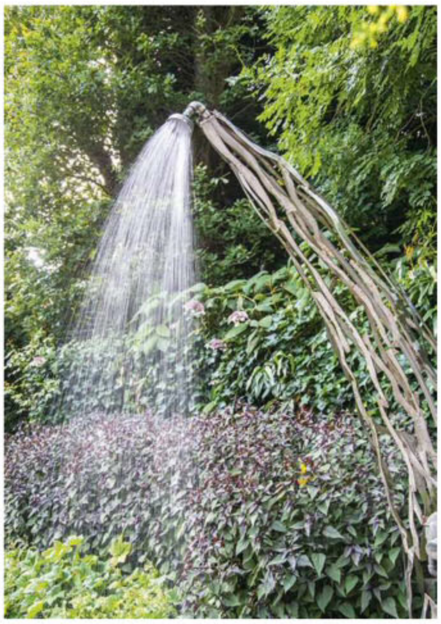
MAAYKE DE RIDDER



# In at the deep end

Fitting a swimming pool into a triangular plot, with a brief to lose all the angles, presented garden designer Bart Hoes with a challenge

WORDS **SIMONE VAN HEININGEN** PHOTOGRAPHS **MAAYKE DE RIDDER**



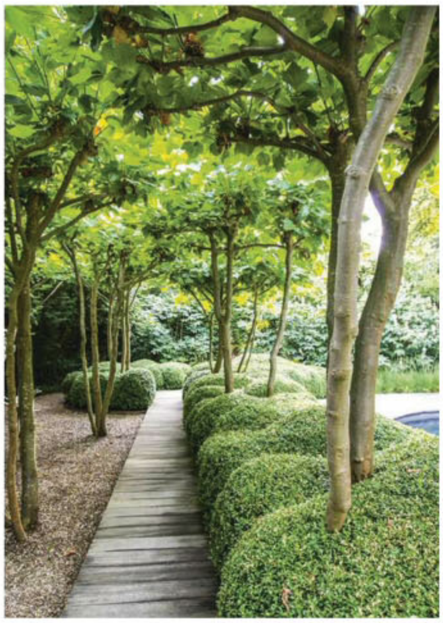
At the southern tip of the Zuid-Kennemerland National Park, in the Netherlands, the villas of Aerdenhout nestle comfortably in their leafy surroundings. They are close enough to Amsterdam for an easy commute, yet distant enough for peace and tranquillity, with the beach a mere bike ride away. No wonder these properties, mostly built in the 1920s and 1930s, sell at a premium, and Aerdenhout consistently ranks as the wealthiest village in the Netherlands.

When the architect-owner of one of those villas moved in some 15 years ago, it took a while before he turned his attention to the awkward area at the east end of his garden that had been neglected for decades. A *Taxus baccata* hedge screened it off nicely from the traditional set-up of lawn, borders, shrubs and trees around the house, so the 'jungle' beyond had been easy to disregard.

Imagining the triangular plot as a swimming pool garden was less easy, but that was exactly what the owner asked garden designer Bart Hoes to do, in 2007. "We had to work with the plot's odd outline, plus ▷

**Left** *Buxus sempervirens,* cloud-pruned to echo the pool's curves, and dotted with multi-stemmed *Platanus* x *hispanica*, creates a soft-edged feel in this awkward, triangular plot. Nestled in among the trees is a sculpture by Jan Jacobs Mulder called *Zuidenwind*, which translates as southerly wind.

**Above** The outdoor shower is another sculpture, *Water en vuur* (water and fire), by Jan Jacobs Mulder.



▷ zoning restrictions that state that you cannot build within five metres of the boundary," says Bart. The health-conscious owner wanted as much pool length as possible as he planned on actually using it for swimming laps. Add to that the fact that Bart wanted to keep as many of the mature trees as possible, and the design he came up with was an organically shaped pool, whose curvy lines are echoed in its steps and the surrounding balau decking.

The same durable hardwood is used for a pathway starting at a narrow passage in the yew hedge and ending up at the very tip of the triangle. It leads through a newly planted cluster of nine multi-stemmed *Platanus* x *hispanica*, with clouds of *Buxus sempervirens* separating the path from the pool to its left, and *Hydrangea aspera* 'Macrophylla' and gravel leading up to the boundary to its right.

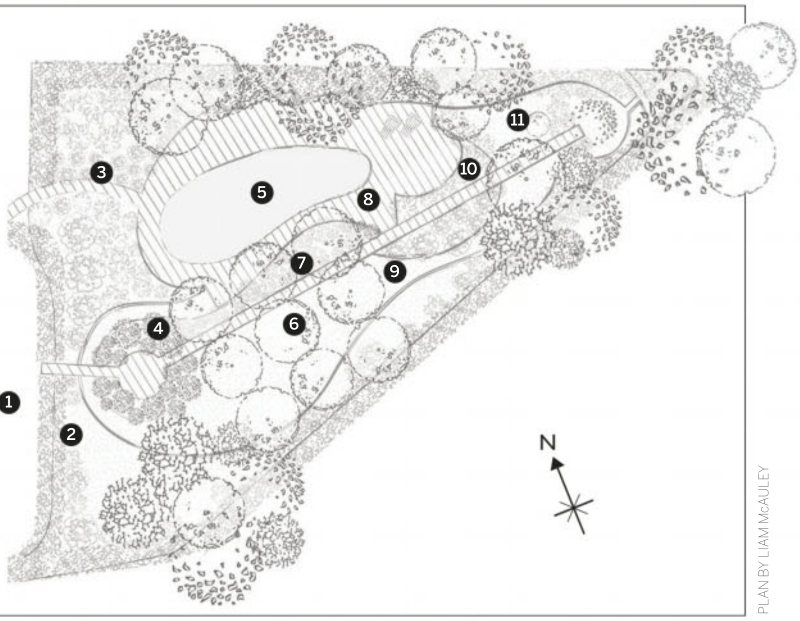
Bart has used this same gravel, known in the Netherlands as flagcorn, for a beech-screened seating area, where the owner plans to build a folly. "Flagcorn looks beautiful, with its shades of grey matching the weathered balau," says Bart. "And because the pebbles are flat and rounded, walking on them barefoot is no problem."

Between the gravel area and the pool decking, *Miscanthus sinensis* adds to the overall feeling of green, which ensures a magical, secret-garden effect throughout the year. But look for it and you will see colour, from pelargoniums, verbena, anemones, *Koelreuteria paniculata* and *Heuchera micrantha* in the summer, to the glorious golden leaves of an old chestnut in the autumn. Every line, every plant and every tree in this garden flows, bends, and curves – everything a triangle does not. If you ever need a square peg fitted into a round hole, surely Bart Hoes is your man. □

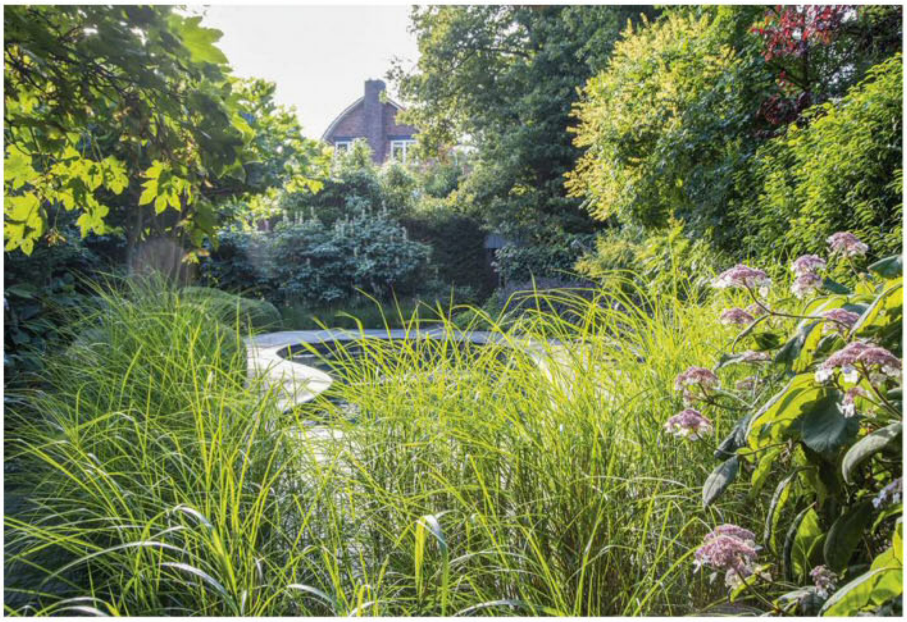
## KEY ELEMENTS

**What** Screened off swimming pool area of a private garden.
**Where** Aerdenhout, the Netherlands.
**Soil** Sandy, but with a fairly thick humus layer.
**Garden size** 350 square metres.
**Special features** Unconventional, kidney-shaped pool that is surrounded by layered planting to create an overall feel of a sheltered, secret garden.
**Designed by** Bart Hoes, Groene Architectuur (barthoes.nl).

1 Main garden
2 *Taxus baccata* hedge
3 Outdoor shower
4 Cloud-pruned *Buxus sempervirens* hedge
5 Swimming pool
6 Cluster of nine *Platanus* x *hispanica*
7 *Zuidenwind* sculpture by Jan Jacobs Mulder
8 Decking area
9 Gravel
10 *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus'
11 Seating area



PLAN BY LIAM McAULEY



**Facing page**

**Left** To the rear of the pool, soft clumps of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus' contrast with the structure of the cloud-pruned box and create a naturalistic feel to the planting.

**Right** A path made from the same hardwood decking that surrounds the pool leads through a shady avenue of *Platanus* x *hispanica*.

**This page**

**Left** Clumps of the grass *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus' and the shrub *Hydrangea aspera* 'Macrophylla' help shield a seating area from the pool.

**Below left** An opening in a tall *Taxus baccata* hedge forms a magical entrance to the pool area, while the winding pathway through plane trees adds to this air of mystery. In this predominantly green garden *Persicaria amplexicaulis* adds rich spots of colour.

**Below right** Bart has given the sides of the pool a grey finish to deepen the colour of the water, and to link the pool to the surrounding hard-wood decking.

## Bart Hoes's five key points for designing a pool garden

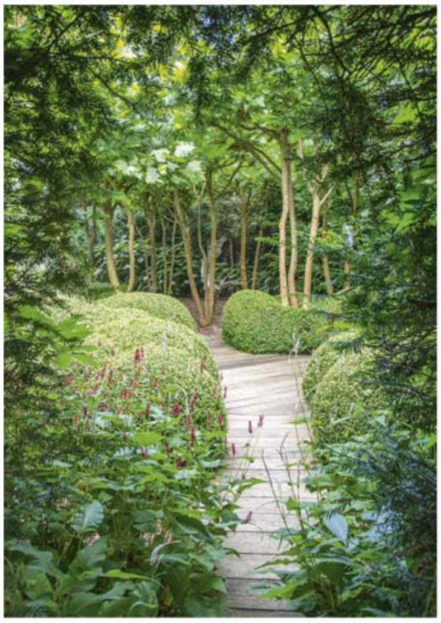
**1 Materials** Using concrete when building a pool gives you an unlimited freedom of design. For the area around the pool, Bart recommends using splinter-free decking, which can be cut into any shape and it does not get as hot underfoot as tiles.

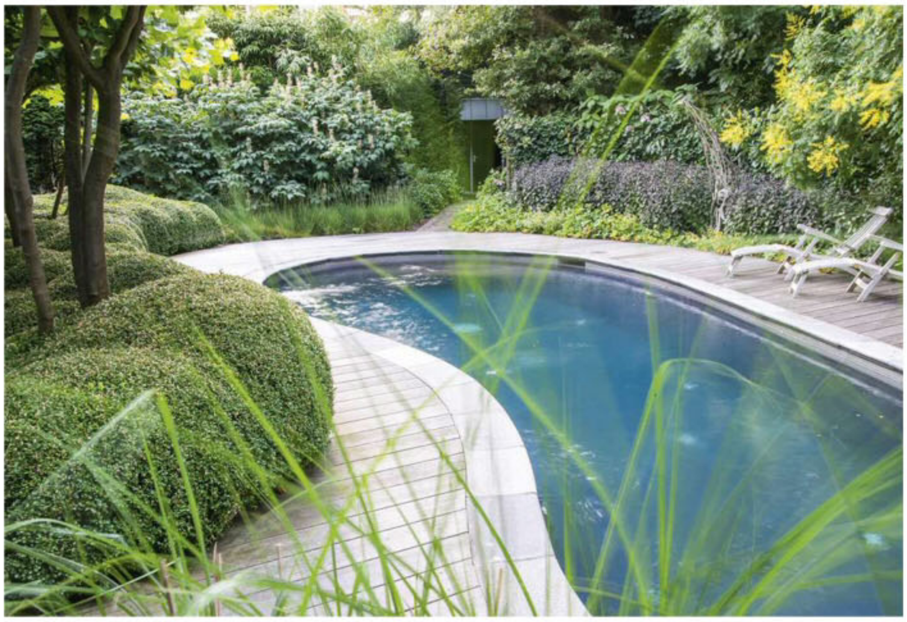
**2 Colour** A grey finish on the pool's inside provides a much more coherent and natural look in a verdant garden than the standard blue. The darker you go, the more of a 'pond' rather than a 'pool' effect you get.

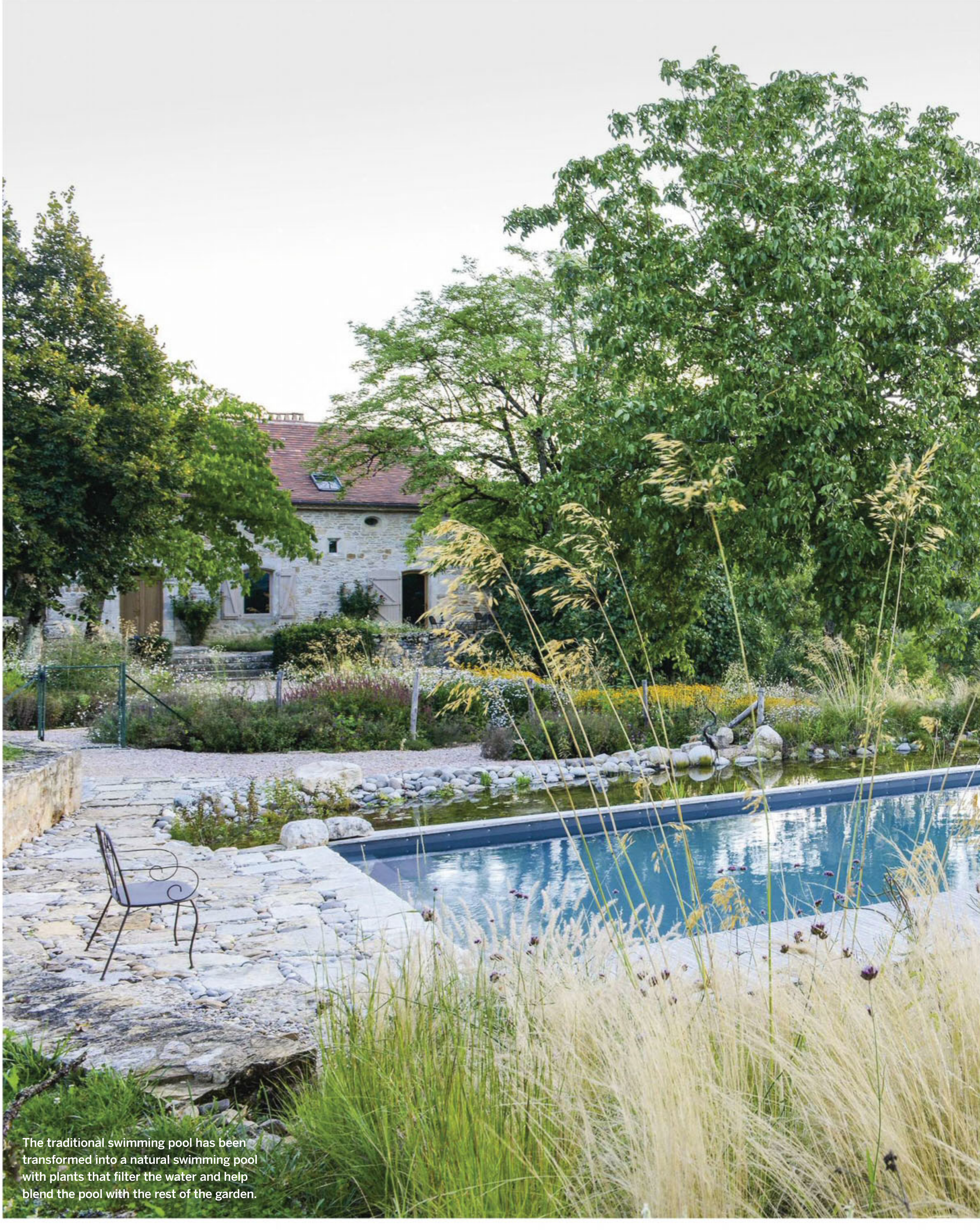
**3 Planting** The old adage of 'no deciduous trees around a pool' no longer applies, thanks to technological innovations, such as skimmers and robot vacuums, that get rid of leaves and debris. By bringing planting up to the pool's edge, you can alter even further the visual impact of the pool's shape.

**4 Shape** Although your plot may dictate the pool's area, it does not necessarily dictate its shape. Nowhere in this garden do you feel you are on a triangular plot. You can make a round plot look rectangular and vice versa, by choosing the pool shape you like and then blurring the outer boundaries with shrubs and trees.

**5 Layering** When designing a pool garden, think vertically. The water surface is always flat, so is the area surrounding the pool. If you line that with walls of tall trees, the effect is one of a box dug into another box. Plant a transitional, medium-height layer, such as shrubs or multi-stemmed trees.







The traditional swimming pool has been transformed into a natural swimming pool with plants that filter the water and help blend the pool with the rest of the garden.

# To gaze on beauty

With a brief to bring in the landscape, Tom de Witte and Corrine Lecluyse have designed a garden without boundaries at the home of a former music producer in the Lot region of France

WORDS **JOHN HOYLAND** PHOTOGRAPHS **MAAYKE DE RIDDER**

"It is this view that brought me here," says Yolande Skura as we look out from the terrace of her garden towards deep valleys and rolling hills. "This is one of the last wild, authentic parts of paradise left in Europe," she says. We are in the Parc National de Quercy in the Lot region of France, in the tiny farmstead of Mas del Lum where Yolande, after 42 years of city life as a classical music producer, has come to make a home and a garden, and to gaze on beauty.

When she bought the property, seven years ago, she was not a gardener so needed to learn quickly. Some of her favourite gardens to look at were those of Piet Oudolf and through him she got in contact with Omna Landscape Design, run by the Dutch garden design duo of Tom de Witte and Corrine Lecluyse. Tom had worked with Oudolf for 20 years and describes him as his mentor.

"They designed the garden five years ago and Tom returns every year [the team is based in the Netherlands] to tweak," says Yolande. "I was very naïve, and didn't realise that caring for a garden you don't just need a strong pair of arms, but 20 strong pairs of arms.

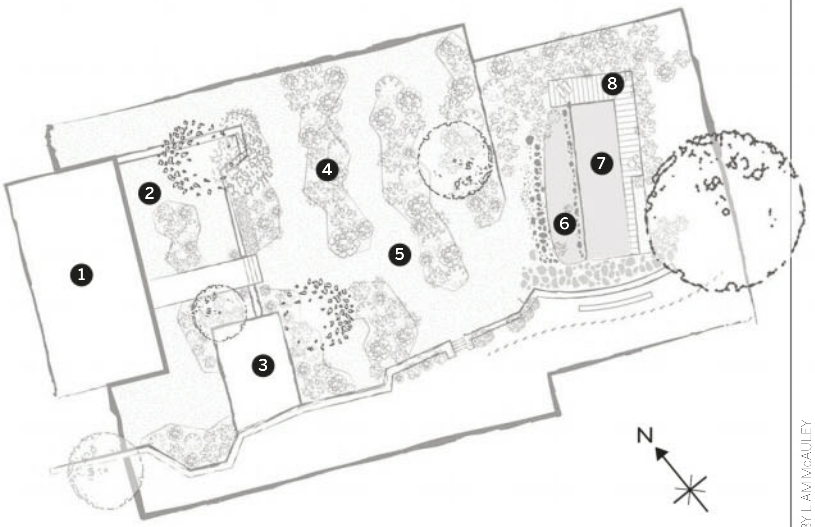
"At first, lots of plants didn't reappear in the spring, not because they had died but because when I weeded I wasn't sure which were the weeds and which were the plants." Yolande learned quickly and the garden is now immaculately maintained for both her enjoyment and that of the bed-and-breakfast guests, who stay in the beautifully renovated buildings that make up the property.

Tom and Corrine have created a garden that sits comfortably in the surrounding landscape. On his first visits to the site, Tom walked around the fields and woodlands of the surrounding area to observe the types of plants growing there and to get a sense of the spirit of the place. "If you want a garden ▷

## KEY ELEMENTS

**What** Large country garden connected to surrounding valleys and hills.
**Where** In the Parc National de Quercy, in the Lot region of France.
**Soil** Thin layer of poor alkaline over rock.
**Garden size** Ten acres.
**Special features** Heavily planted beds of mainly grasses and herbaceous perennials that overlook open countryside. Orchards of walnuts, apples and pears, plus a vegetable garden. A swimming pool that is naturally filtered by plants.
**Designed by** Tom de Witte and Corrine Lecluyse, Omna Landscape (omna.nl).

**1** House
**2** Terrace
**3** Loggia
**4** Planting beds
**5** Gravel
**6** Shallow pond, natural water cleaning area
**7** Swimming pool
**8** Decked area



PLAN BY L AM McAULEY

**Facing page**

**Left** From the shade of the terrace, the garden falls away, appearing to merge with the distant rolling hills.

**Right** Mounds of *Kalimeris incisa* and the plumes of *Stipa gigantea* complement the light-coloured stone of the former farmhouse.

**This page**

**Left** Close to the pool, beds of perennials and grasses are planted to mimic the contours of the surrounding hills and valleys.

**Below left** At the end of the summer, the orange daisies of *Rudbeckia missouriensis* reflect the changing colours of the landscape.

**Below right** Water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), *Iris sibirica*, *Iris pseudacorus* and other aquatic plants have colonised the shallow pond and help to filter the swimming pool water.

## A pool as nature intended

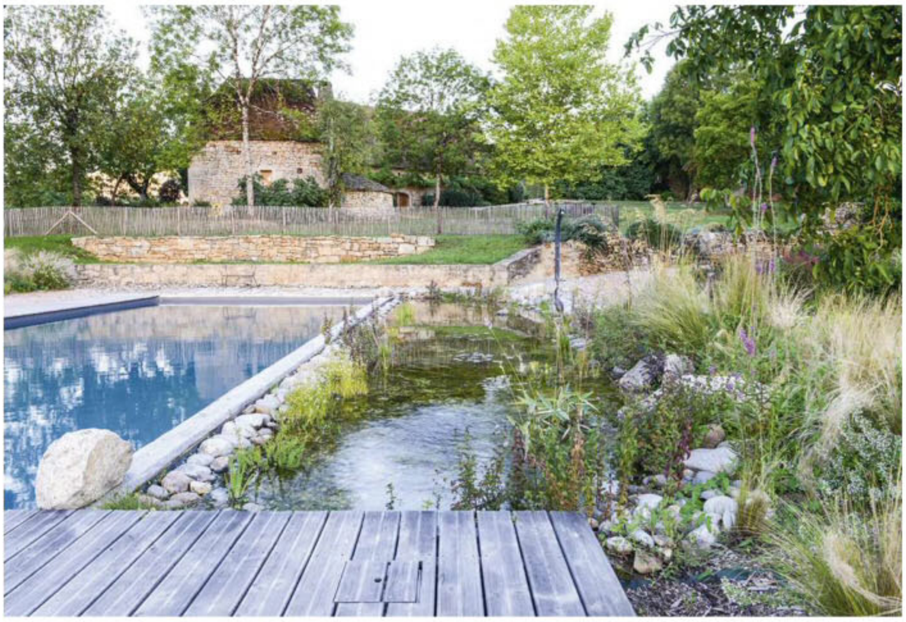
The pool at Mas del Lum was a conventional swimming pool until Yolande converted it. A separate planting area was added to act as a filter and the water pumped between this 'cleaning area' and the swimming area. Keeping the areas separate made this an easy option for adapting a chemical pool without having to completely restructure and redesign this part of the garden.

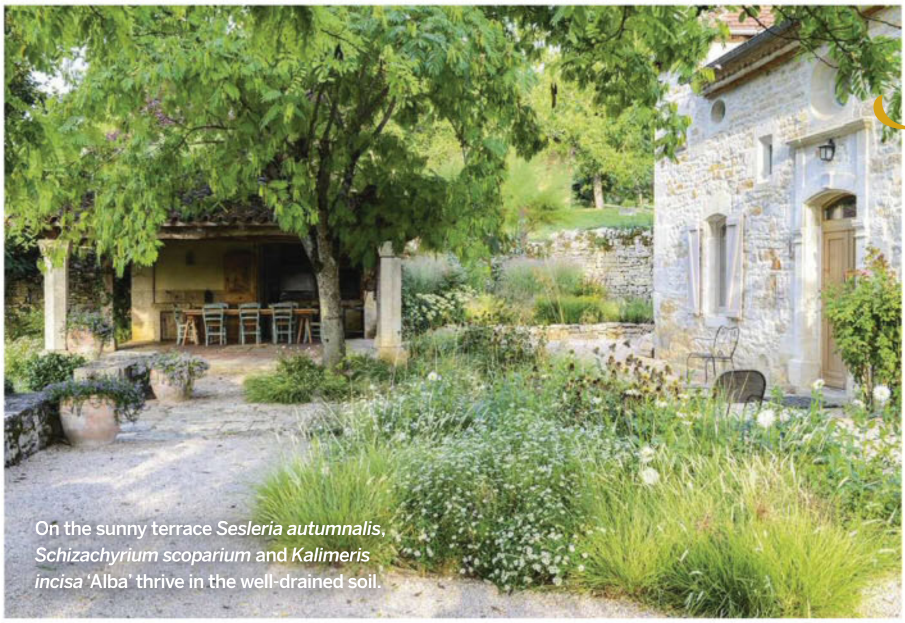
The planting area is lined with pebbles and planted with iris, reeds, mints and other aquatic plants, which are not grown in soil but anchored by their roots into the cobbles, pebbles and gravel that form the base.

Not only do the plants take up nutrients that would otherwise cause algae to flourish, but they also give the pond its own ecosystem – attractive to visiting wildlife – and help it blend in with the garden.

"It is like swimming through silk," says Yolande. "There are times when the water looks a bit green, particularly after a thunderstorm. It is still safe to swim in, but it doesn't look as attractive as the crystal clear water we usually have."

To ensure that the water does look sparkling for her bed-and-breakfast guests, Yolande has also installed a non-chemical cleaning system to back up the activity of the plants. Any debris from the surface of the water is skimmed off and the water passed through a series of filters that quickly remove nutrients and algae.





On the sunny terrace *Sesleria autumnalis*, *Schizachyrium scoparium* and *Kalimeris incisa* 'Alba' thrive in the well-drained soil.

*Four flower beds are designed to resemble waves, or streams, as Tom calls them, laid out in layers to echo the distant hills and valleys*

▷ that looks natural, studying the plants that grow in the area will inspire you about what type of plants to use," he says.

A broad terrace in front of the house contains a pastel-coloured rectangular bed planted with a carpet of calming *Kalimeris incisa* 'Alba', which is punctuated in spring by tall white alliums and later in the year by the delicate spires of *Sesleria autumnalis* and the pale flowers of *Echinacea purpurea* 'Jade'. Large terracotta pots of rosemary add perfume to the area and a large silk tree, *Albizia julibrissin*, provides shade.

The terrace overlooks the main garden and, in the distance, the gently undulating hills of the national park. Four flower beds are designed to resemble waves, or streams, as Tom calls them, laid out in layers to echo the distant hills and valleys. "The views are so spectacular that I wanted the transition between the garden and the landscape to appear seamless, so there are no boundary fences or hedges, and the streams of plants feel like a continuation of the landscape," explains Tom.

The planting is light and airy. Each bed has its own colour theme and is connected to its neighbour by the repeated use of grasses such as *Stipa tenuissima*, *Stipa gigantea* and the scented grass *Sporobolus heterolepis*. To anchor the planting *Helleborus orientalis*, *Helleborus foetidus*, *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*, *Thymus vulgaris* and other plants with strong evergreen foliage are threaded through the beds.

Further from the house is a swimming pool with naturally cleaned water. When Yolande bought the property this was a typical rectangular pool. "I didn't like the shape of the pool, nor the fact that the water was cleaned with chemicals," she says. She had the idea to convert the pool to a natural swimming pool, softening the shape by adding a shallow curved planting area along one side, where the plants that filter the water would grow (see page 77).

In the past six years Yolande has learned to be a gardener from Tom and from rolling her sleeves up and working. "Most of all," she says, "I have learned from looking: you learn a lot from taking the time to observe nature." And there are few more beautiful places to sit and stare than at Mas del Lum. □

---

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**Address** Mas del Lum, Boussac,
46100 Figeac, Lot, France.
**Tel**+33 (0)5 65 40 06 63.
**Web** mas-del-lum.fr

## 9 plants that echo a wider landscape

**1 *Kalimeris incisa* 'Alba'**
The domes of apple-green foliage are smothered throughout the summer with aster-like flowers. Tom has also specified a blue-flowered cultivar for the garden. 60cm. USDA 5a-9b[†].

**2 *Stipa gigantea***
The arching stems of golden, oat-like flower heads can grow to great heights, but are so delicate that they form a transparent screen.
2.5m. AGM[*]. RHS H4, USDA 6a-10b.

**3 *Gaura lindheimeri***
The narrow, wiry stems carry a billow of small, white flowers from May to the end of August. It is a short-lived perennial that can be grown as an annual.
1-1.5m. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

**4 *Allium schubertii***
*A. schubertii* has tiny, metallic-purple flowers on stems of differing lengths and structural seedheads that look like exploding stars.
50cm. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

**5 *Perovskia atriplicifolia***
The effect of the white, downy stems and lavender flowers is of a blue heat-haze. *Perovskia* should be cut back hard in spring to encourage fresh, young growth.
1.5m. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

**6 *Sesleria autumnalis***
During the summer this grass produces masses of narrow, silvery-grey plumes. They sway in the slightest breeze, bringing movement and energy to borders.
1.5m. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

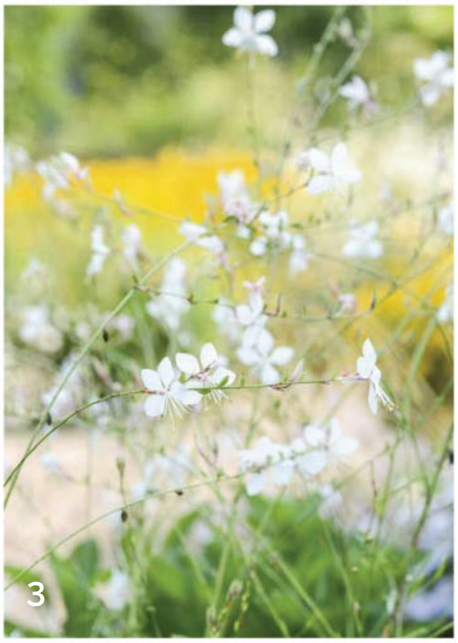
**7 *Erigeron karvinskianus***
A low-growing plant, with wiry stems and a froth of daisy-like flowers, that revels in the poor, well-drained soil of Yolande's garden.
50cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 6a-9b.

**8 *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii***
The evergreen mounds are handsome all year, but the plant is most striking in the spring when it produces huge chartreuse flower heads. 1.5m. RHS H4, USDA 6b-10b.

**9 *Limonium latifolium***
A perennial that thrives in dry soils and sunny spots. The cloud of small, mauve flowers fits the garden's lightness and airiness. 75cm. RHS H7, USDA 5a-9b.

1

2


3

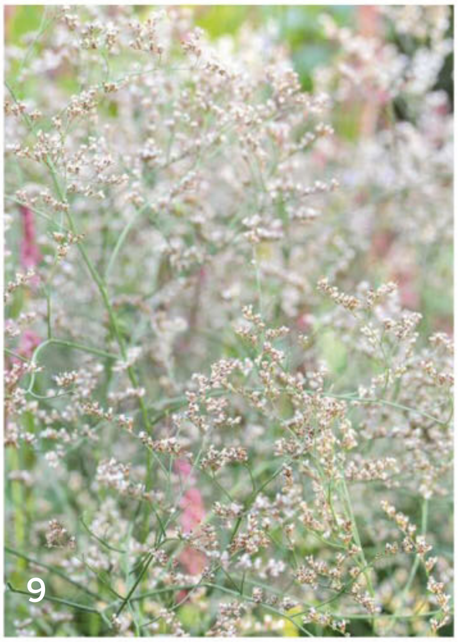
4

5

6

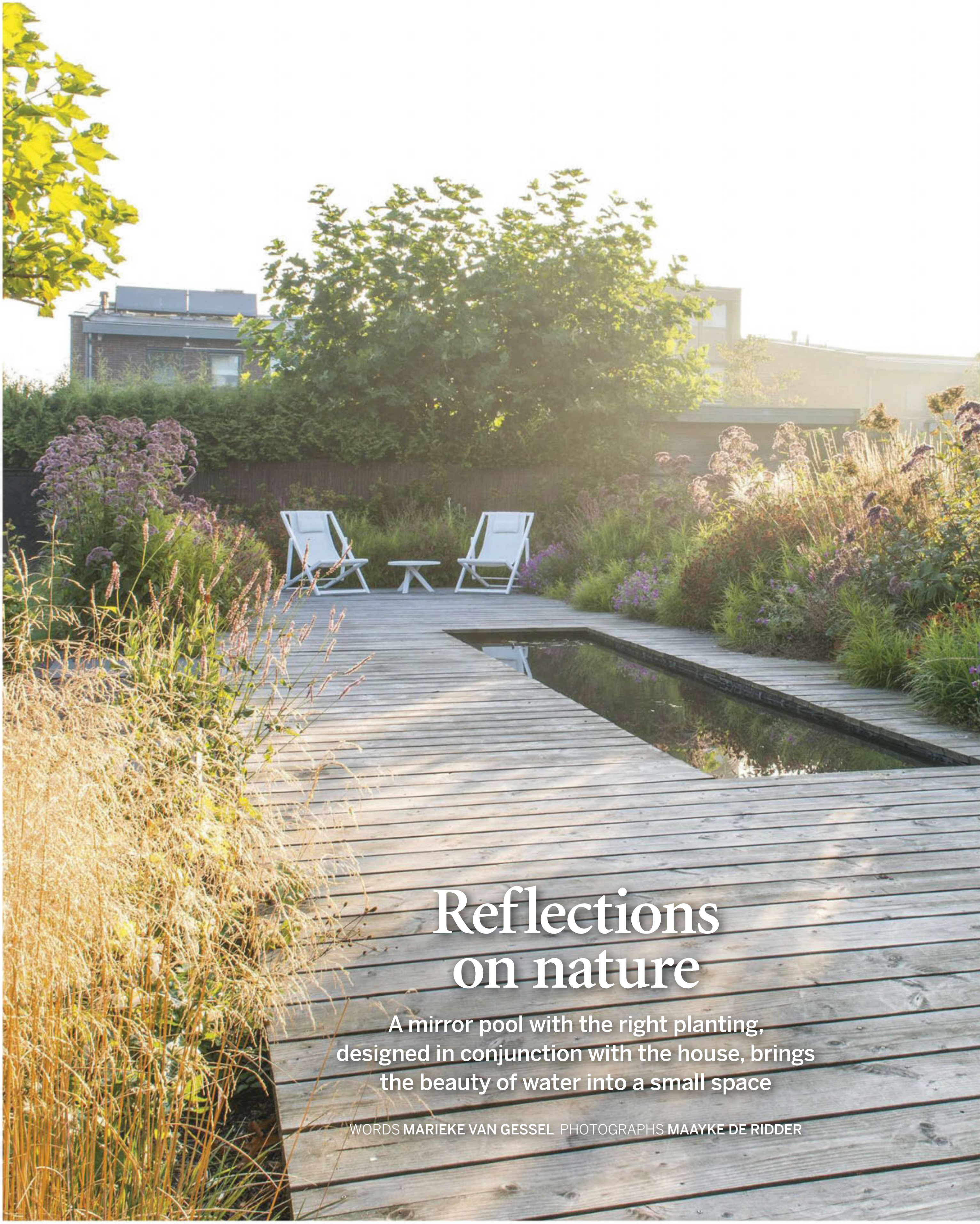
7

8


9

---

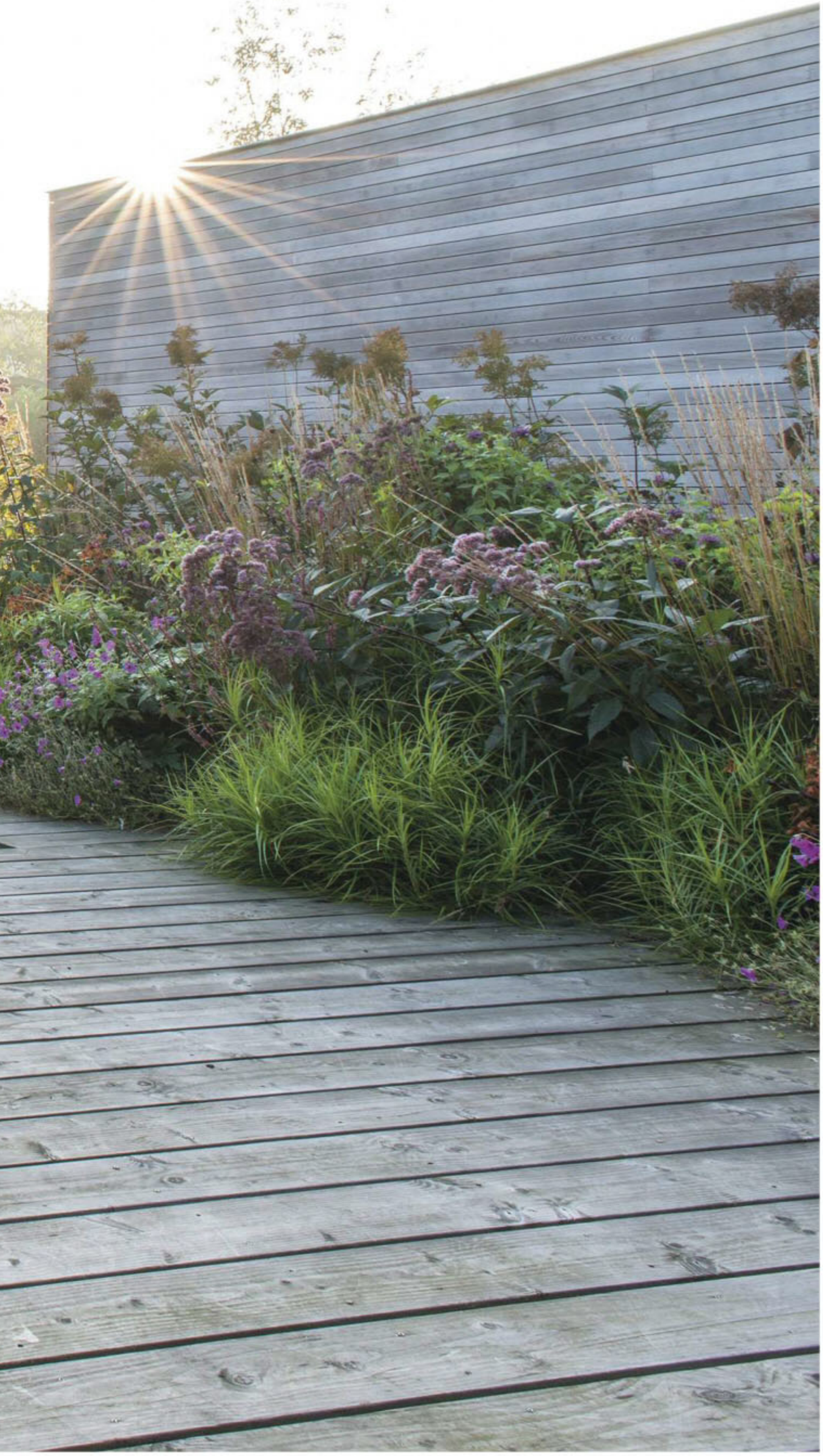
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.



# Reflections on nature

A mirror pool with the right planting, designed in conjunction with the house, brings the beauty of water into a small space

WORDS **MARIEKE VAN GESSEL** PHOTOGRAPHS **MAAYKE DE RIDDER**



Much as we'd probably all love to spend our summer days relaxing by the side of our own private swimming pool, challenges of space and budget make this more a dream than a reality for most. But there is something very special about water in the garden and you don't need a swimming pool or a huge amount of space to take pleasure from its presence.

When Marieke and Paul van Eijk were planning a garden for their new build in 2012, they liked the idea of including a pool to sit by but wanted to keep a large lawn for their children to play on. Their house, which they designed with local architects Bonnemayer Architecten, is a modern interpretation of a traditional long farm house with large windows, sliding doors and an integrated pavilion at the back. Their architect, Niels Peters, made a sketch for a rectangular decked terrace next to the pavilion that included a mirror pool.

Paul dug out the 6m-long sunken pool himself – and made the Douglas fir decking that surrounds it – but the couple turned ▷

**Left** A naturalistic mix of ornamental grasses, including *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau', and perennials, such as *Eupatorium maculatum* Atropurpureum Group and *Geranium* Patricia (= 'Brempat'), soften the pool's geometric lines.

**Above** Repeating plants in different shapes are linked by shades of purple.

▷ to Frank Heijligers of the garden design firm and nursery Van Nature for the planting scheme. "We didn't want traditional borders," says Marieke. "But a more natural and slightly wild style, which is exactly what Van Nature stands for."

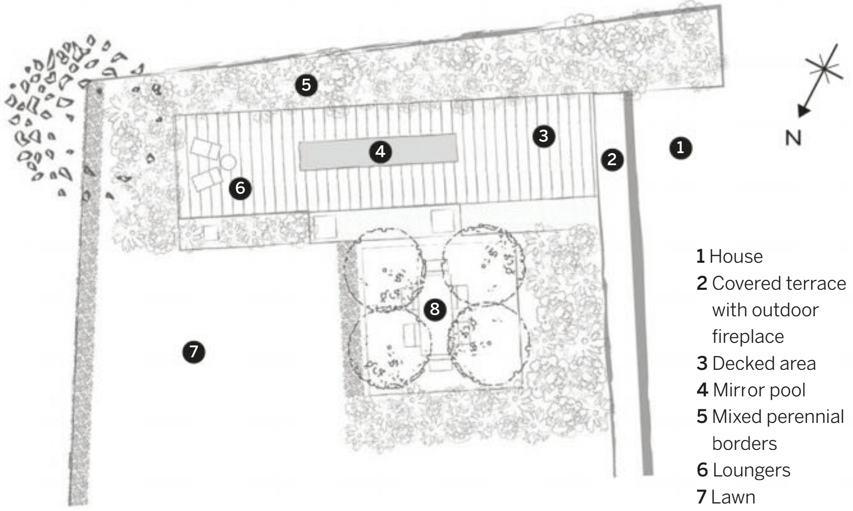
Frank has softened the stark, rectangular shape of the decking and pool with a lush 25m-long border. "I like a strong, modern structure to contrast with our loose style of planting, combining strong perennials and ornamental grasses," he says. "I get a lot of inspiration from renowned experts, such as Piet Oudolf and Dan Pearson, but I like to do things my way, a little differently. For me it is all about the structure and dynamics of the plants, the effect and atmosphere they generate. I love ornamental grasses, because they move in the wind and shine in autumn and winter, when there is little else of interest."

The border has transformed the terrace and the mirror pool, giving it some beauty to reflect. Although only 70cm deep the pool creates a stunning focal point. "We love to sit by it during the day and can enjoy its relaxing presence from the pavilion and the house," says Marieke. "We can see it from the living room, kitchen and dining table. We have oxygen plants and a pump to keep the water clear; there are no fish or noticeable plants, as its main purpose is to provide a mirror effect. At night it's beautifully lit, so luckily nobody has walked into it by mistake."

The pool's bold geometric shape suits Frank's lush mix of perennials and grasses, but given that Van Nature, the firm he runs with Frank van der Linden and Caroline van Heeswijk, translates as 'By Nature' wouldn't he have preferred something a bit more natural looking? "No, not at all," he laughs. "You need structure and contrast in a garden. After all, it is a cultivated piece of nature you create." □

## KEY ELEMENTS

**What** Modern family garden with a strong geometrical lay-out, including a lawn, decking and slab terraces.
**Where** Geldrop, a village southeast of the city of Eindhoven, the Netherlands.
**Soil** Sandy, covered with a mulch of composted wood chips.
**Garden size** 525 square metres.
**Special features** 6m mirror pool and a 25m-long naturalistic border that encompasses the decked pool terrace.
**Designed by** Frank Heijligers, Van Nature (wijzijnvannature.nl). Pool designed by Niels Peters, Bonnemayer Architecten (bonnemayerarchitecten.nl).



**1** House
**2** Covered terrace with outdoor fireplace
**3** Decked area
**4** Mirror pool
**5** Mixed perennial borders
**6** Loungers
**7** Lawn
**8** Dining terrace

PLAN BY LIAM McAULEY

**Facing page**

**Left** A soft wall of the mid-height grass *Carex muskingumensis*, separates the pool terrace from a large lawn to the side.

**Right** The orange flowers of *Helenium* 'Moerheim Beauty' work wonderfully with the grass and bring the pinks of *Eupatorium maculatum* Atropurpureum Group and *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail' to life.

**This page**

**Left** The pool terrace, with its grey, Douglas fir decking blends beautifully with the floor tiles for the covered pavilion by the house. An outdoor fireplace allows the family to enjoy the garden on cooler days.

**Below left** Alongside the pool terrace, Frank has also created a private dining terrace, shaded by four large umbrella plane trees (*Platanus* x *hispanica*) and surrounded by a mix of grasses and perennials, including *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Rosea'.

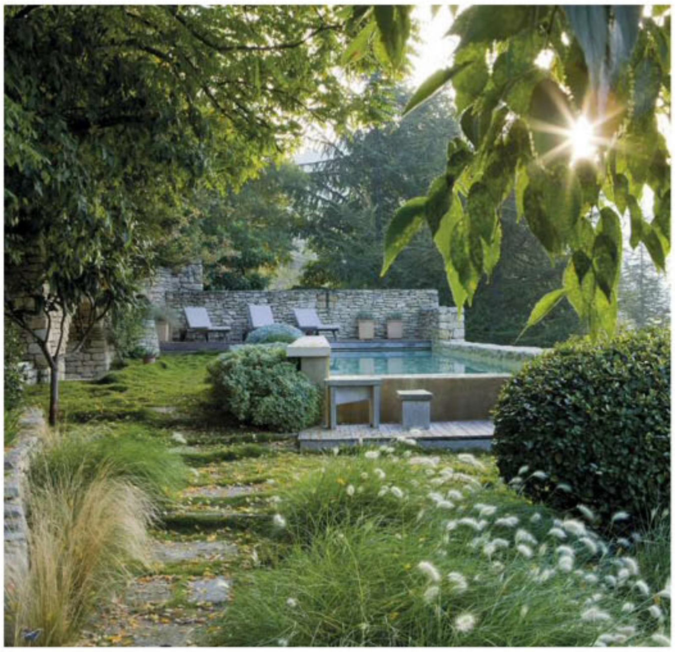
**Below right** Cocooned by planting, the pool terrace has a deeply relaxing feel.

## Frank Heijligers' five key points for planning a mirror pool

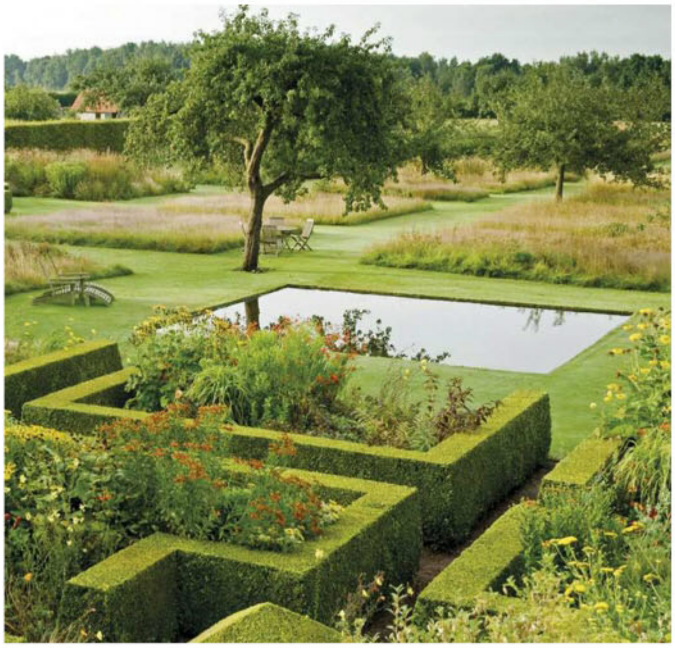
- **Position** Think carefully about the most suitable position for your pool. Ideally, you want a spot where you'll be able to sit by it in summer, but where it will also form a relaxing focal point from inside the house – this is where you'll probably be looking at it for much of the year. Bear in mind the main views from your home and also the architecture of your house.
- **Safety** A sunken mirror pool generates a wonderful reflective and relaxing effect, but isn't always practical when you have very small children or pets. To avoid accidents consider a raised pool. Corten steel or zinc troughs can look very effective.
- **Design** A mirror pool requires less maintenance than a natural pond, but it also demands well-designed furniture that's both comfortable to sit in and is interesting to look at.
- **Cost** Installing a mirror pool can be expensive. Depending on the size, materials and whether or not you want it to contain fish, it can cost from around £180 to the tens of thousands. You can reduce costs if you keep the design simple and, like Paul, you're happy to dig it out yourself.
- **Size** A pool is an asset in any garden, large or small, and can also enhance the sense of space – a rectangular pond makes a small garden look bigger. Dare to make a statement and don't shy away from a generous size.

# Eight ideas for pools and ponds

Whether it's for swimming, dipping or just observing the play of light on water, a pool can transform your outside space. Alys Hurn finds more design inspiration



CLIVE NICHOLS / GAP PHOTOS



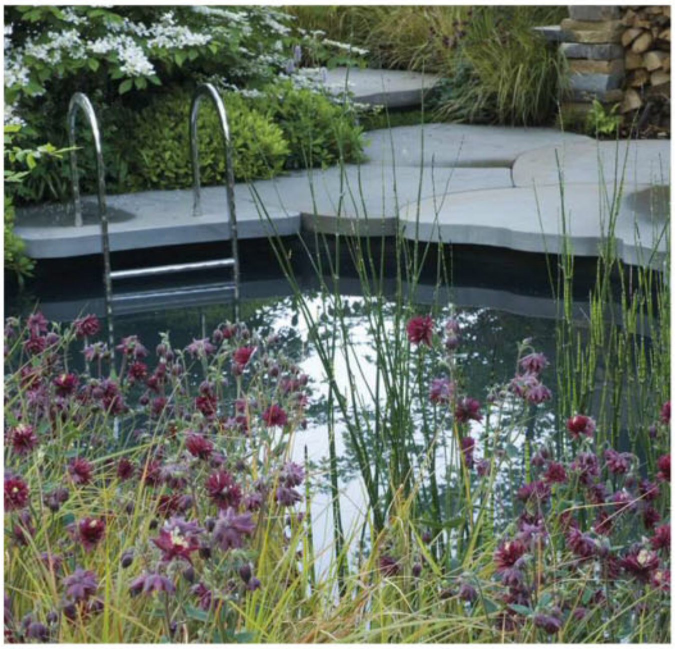
JERRY HARPUR / GAP PHOTOS

## 1 Continuity of materials

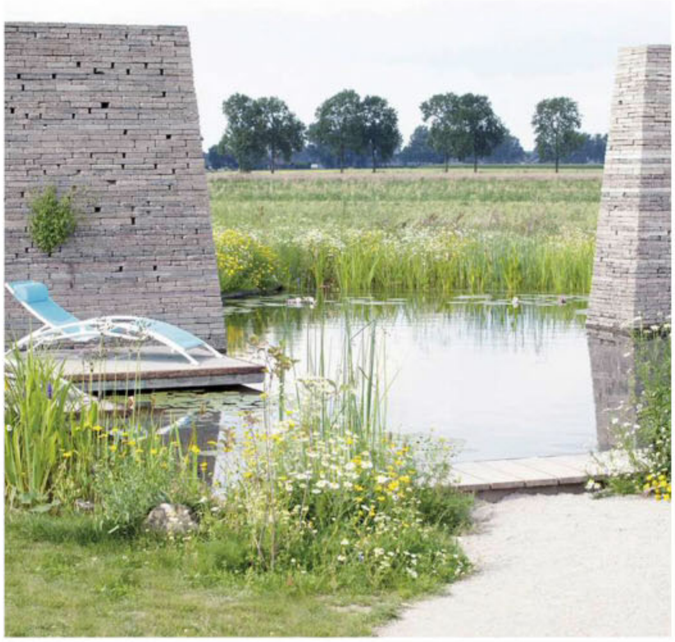
Yellow-toned Provençal stonework, used for the outer ledge and back wall, helps to soften this modern swimming pool, giving it a rustic appeal. A small deck built at the front matches the main deck behind, enhancing the continuity of the design and connecting the space.

## 2 Mirror image

A mirror pond adds style and intrigue to a garden, and is a relatively simple feature to construct. Here it echoes the existing geometric shapes and offers a peaceful pause between the boxed hedges in front and the prairie-style planting in the orchard behind.



HEATHER EDWARDS / GAP PHOTOS



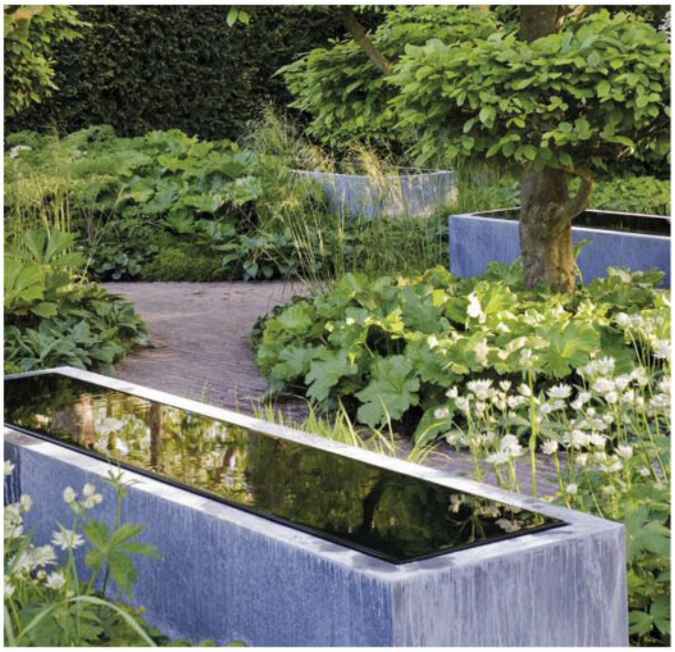
HANNEKE REIJBROEK / GAP PHOTOS

## 3 Small is beautiful

A plunge pool is an excellent space saver for a small garden. Keep the shape organic and the planting loose and airy as in this mix of *Aquilegia vulgaris* var. *stellata* 'Ruby Port' and *Hakonechloa macra*, in a design by Mark Gregory, so the pool is in balance the rest of your outdoor space.

## 4 Borrowed landscape

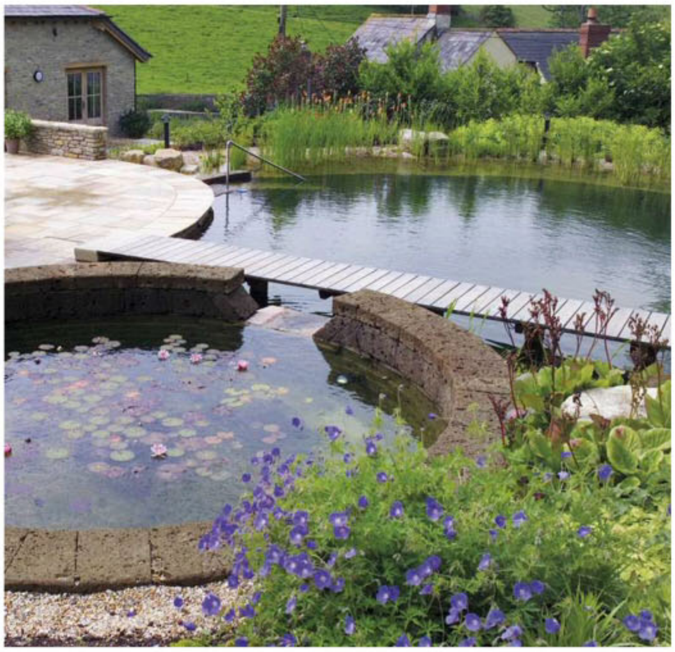
If you're lucky enough to have a gorgeous view, don't waste it. Choose plants, such as these wild *Senecio jacobaea* and *Anthemis arvensis*, that blend seamlessly with the eye-catching vistas. Surface and emergent plants connect the water to the natural aspect beyond.



HEATHER EDWARDS / GAP PHOTOS

## 5 Raising the level

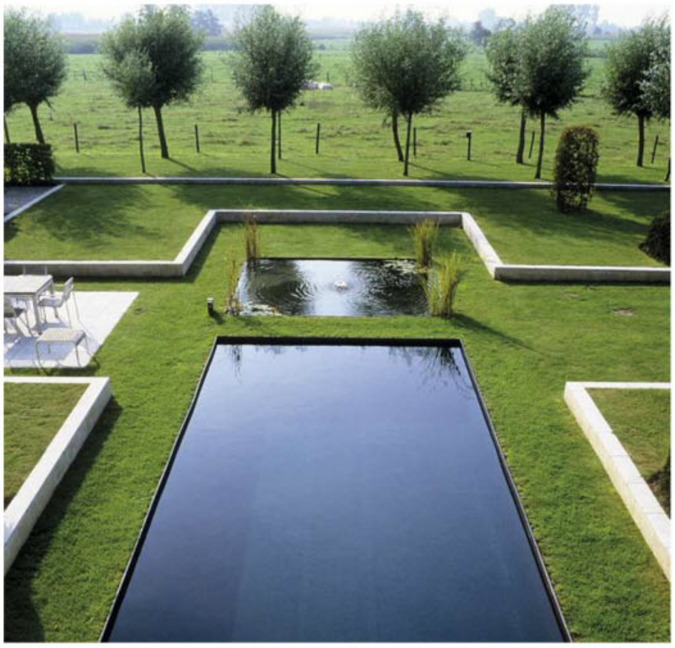
A sunken pool is not the only way to introduce water. Troughs, such as these zinc tanks from a Tom Stuart-Smith design, lift water to plant level and create a magical interplay of reflected light. Pair with an understated plant palette and natural materials for a tranquil space.



MARK BOLTON / GAP PHOTOS

## 6 Teamed with tradition

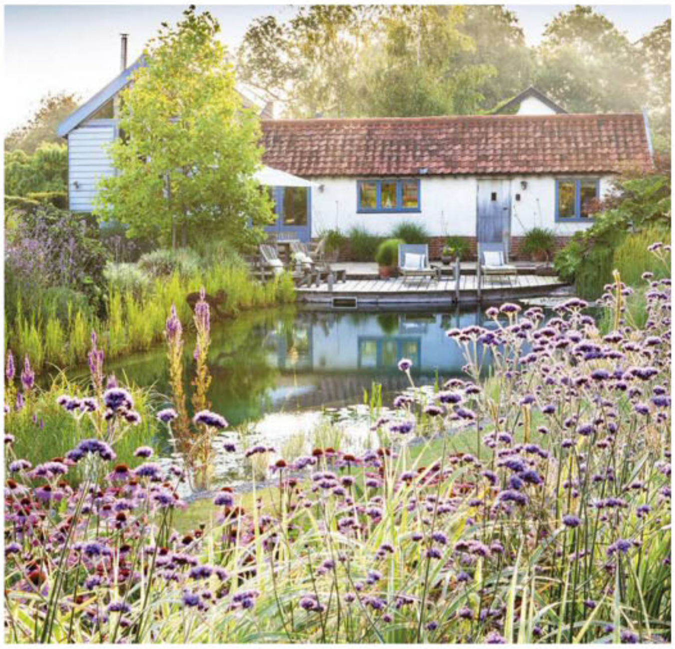
Fuse practicality and beauty by connecting an ornamental pond to your swimming pool. The cascade from this formal lily pond helps to oxygenate the water in the swimming pool while the water lilies' large, surface-covering leaves, keep algae growth in check.



NICOLA BROWNE / GAP PHOTOS

## 7 Dark interior

For a decadent feel introduce the look of deep water to a shallow pool. A black liner is an alternative to the more usual blue, and the resulting clean lines and dark reflection fit well with this geometric garden design. The natural pond beyond helps to soften the effect.



RICHARD BLOOM / GAP PHOTOS

## 8 Softened edges

This large natural pool is surrounded by a loose planting scheme that incorporates *Lythrum virgatum*, *Echinacea purpurea* and the towering spires of *Verbena bonariensis*. A large deck has been added for ease of access and to provide a lounging area close to the water's edge.

TENDERCARE
Mature & Formal Hardy Plants

STONEMARKET HADDONSTONE HSP Garden Buildings CROWN PAVILIONS easigrass™ the artificial grass company

- SHOWCASE FOR OUTDOOR LIVING
- GARDEN DESIGN SERVICES
- GARDEN BUILDINGS
- 20 ACRES OF MATURE SHRUBS & TREES
- VERTICAL GARDENS
- PERSONAL SHOPPING
- LANDSCAPE SERVICES
- PLANTING & WARRANTY
- FLEXIBLE DELIVERY & OFFLOADING

See our website for our Autumn Offers

www.tendercare.co.uk

Southlands Road Denham
Middlesex UB9 4HD
Mon to Fri 8am - 5pm
See website for weekend hours

01895 835544
sales@tendercare.co.uk

---

The
ENGLISH GARDENING SCHOOL
— CHELSEA —

***BOOK NOW Garden Makers Day 18 January 2018***
***With Roy Lancaster, Jinny Blom and Aaron Bertelsen***

**ONE YEAR GOOD GARDENING DIPLOMA COURSE**
**BOOKING NOW** Sep 2017 – June 2018
Covers the best in planting design while training in the more serious aspects of horticultural techniques. Working sessions at Sissinghurst with head gardener Troy Smith and lectures by many leading gardening personalities. Regular visits to outstanding private gardens.
*(1 day a week (Tues), 10.30am–3.15pm, over three 10 week terms)*

**10 WEEK INTENSIVE GARDEN DESIGN DIPLOMA COURSE**
**BOOKING NOW** January – March 2018
Covers all you need to know in this diverse subject, including TWO real design projects and CAD tuition. Drawing skills, estimating, plant knowledge, water features, garden lighting and visits to the work of leading designers with Rosemary Alexander and other tutors.
*(3 days a week in school, 10.30am-3.15pm, plus 2 days homework)*

**GARDEN DESIGN & CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN**
**Distance Learning Courses** study anytime, anywhere in the world
A stepping stone to a new career
These two courses are a step by step guide to either designing your own garden or learning how to plant and maintain an existing garden: drawing up plans, hard landscaping, site analysis, planting, month by month tasks etc.
Taught through a comprehensive course book, with projects submitted by post.
*1-3 years to complete and individual assessment.*

Chelsea Physic Garden

Not sure which Diploma course is for you? Come along to an information session to see our location and find out more.
**www.englishgardeningschool.co.uk**
**Email: info@englishgardeningschool.co.uk**
**Tel: 020 7352 4347**

**Long established as the leader in all design and gardening tuition and based at the unique and historic Chelsea Physic Garden**

# design

## Design update, ideas and sourcebook

UPDATE COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI

Sam's original design for Chatsworth included Purbeck stone walls, which will be reimagined at Wedgwood as benches, while the *Fagus sylvatica* f. *purpurea* hedges (below) will divide the space and encourage visitors to explore.

ANDREA JONES

NEW GARDEN

### Northern roots

Sam Ovens' Wedgwood Garden, which won a gold medal at the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show in June, has found a permanent home at the World of Wedgwood visitor centre in Stoke-on-Trent. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the contemporary take on a traditional English flower garden where perennials, such as *Acanthus hungaricus*, grow among grasses, including *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus'. The Purbeck stone walls from the show garden have been reimagined as low-level benches within the space. **worldofwedgwood.com**

**ALLETT**

*LIBERTY (Lithium Ion Battery) RANGE*

FOR GREAT STRIPES AND THE PERFECT LAWN

British manufactured, premium quality cylinder mowers,
ensuring the most precise cut and finish

Liberty 30

Liberty 35/43

**Simple to start and easy to use.**

Experience the convenience & freedom of cordless mowing

- Cutting width 30cm (12" push)
- Quick Change Cartridge (QC)
- Optional extra: *Scarifier*

- Cutting width 30cm/43cm (14"/ 17")
- Self propelled with 6 speeds
- Quick Change Cartridge (QC)
- Optional extras: *Scarifier, Aerator, Dethatcher, Verticutter, Lawn Brush, 10 Blade Cylinder*

www.allett.co.uk | 01889 271503

Visit our website for full details including our extensive range of petrol and electric cylinder mowers. You can also find details on how to enter the 2017 Allett Creative Stripes Competition

---

# ART
APPRECIATION COURSE

Enrol with Friends and Save!

STUDY ONLINE
with
Hilary Kay

*Start an Exciting New Hobby or Take Steps to Change Your Career*

- Written by Leading Experts
- Diploma Course
- Study Online, at Home, in Your Own Time
- 24 Hour Student Support
- 7 Day Money Back Guarantee
- Flexible Payment Options

For more information email us at:
**info@theartinstitute.co.uk**
**www.theartinstitute.co.uk**

THE ART INSTITUTE

---

# *Natural wildflower turf*
from Lindum

## Benefits of Wildflower turf

- Create beautiful swathes of wildflower meadows across the garden
- Prolonged flowering period
- Pre-grown wildflower turf, means that plants are ready established
- Attracts butterflies and pollinators
- Low maintenance

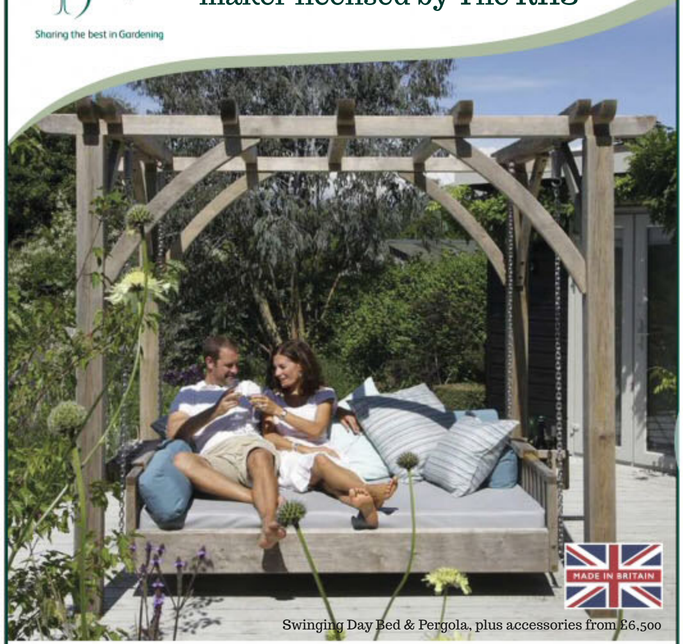
turf.co.uk/wildflower-turf
01904 448675
lindum@turf.co.uk
@lindumturf

Lindum
*taking grass a step further*

---

Royal Horticultural Society
Sharing the best in Gardening

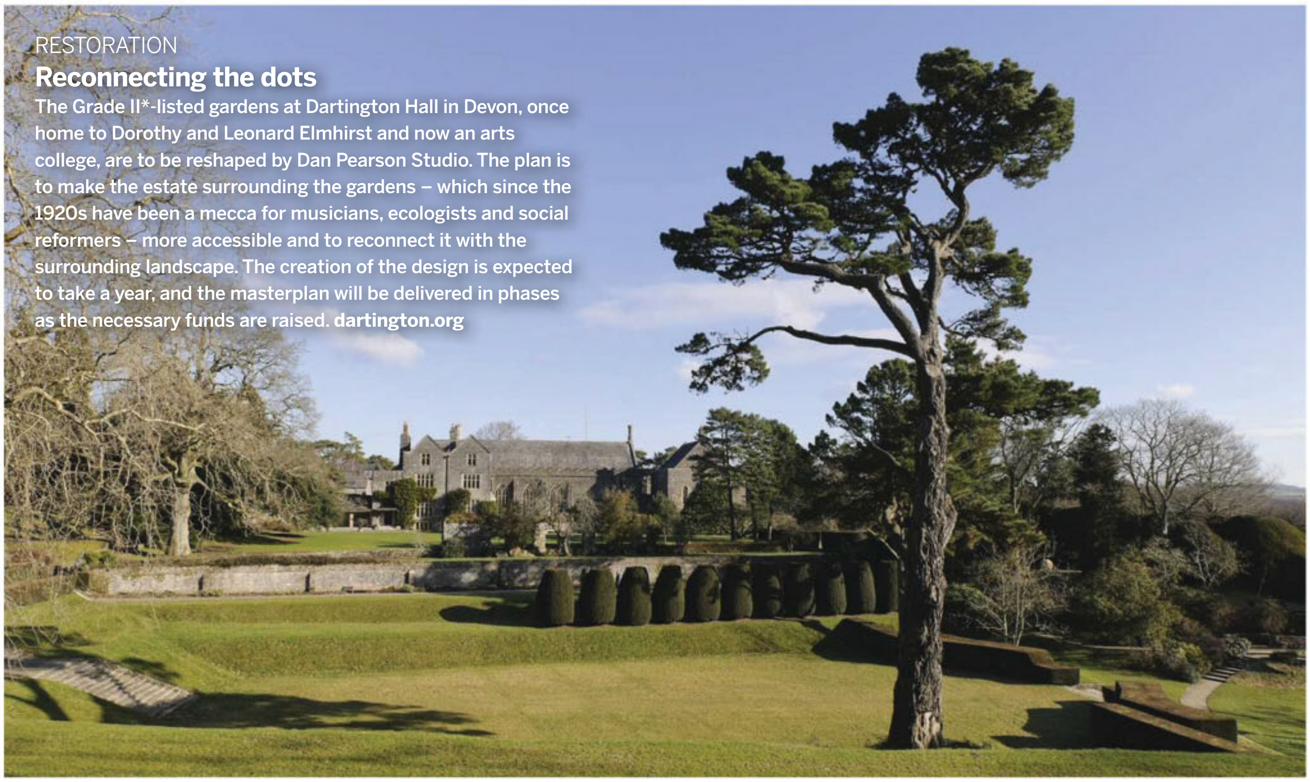
The only bespoke swing & bench maker licensed by The RHS



Swinging Day Bed & Pergola, plus accessories from £6,500

Visit us online at **sittingspiritually.co.uk**
or call us on 01297 443084

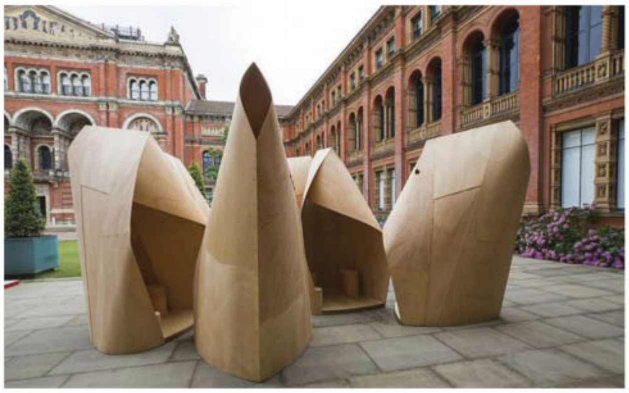
SITTING SPIRITUALLY
*— Of Lyme Regis —*



RESTORATION

## Reconnecting the dots

The Grade II*-listed gardens at Dartington Hall in Devon, once home to Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst and now an arts college, are to be reshaped by Dan Pearson Studio. The plan is to make the estate surrounding the gardens – which since the 1920s have been a mecca for musicians, ecologists and social reformers – more accessible and to reconnect it with the surrounding landscape. The creation of the design is expected to take a year, and the masterplan will be delivered in phases as the necessary funds are raised. **dartington.org**



EXHIBITION

## Organic forms

In the John Madejski Garden at London's Victoria & Albert Museum, a cluster of curved shelters designed by Patkau Architects form part of a new exhibition celebrating plywood. Visitors are invited to take a seat in the structures, made from flexible plywood sheets and attached to a timber frame. They were originally designed as shelters for ice skaters on a frozen river in Winnipeg, Canada, and the installation is supported by the American Friends of the V&A. Until 12 November. **vam.ac.uk**

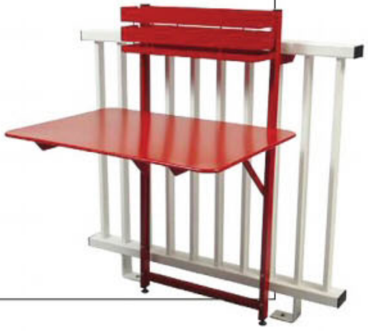
FESTIVAL

## Gardening and beyond

Orticolario's garden festival at Villa Erba, Lake Como, returns at the end of the month for its ninth outing. The theme for the three-day event is 'Reaching Out to the Moon' and this year the festival explores the idea of going beyond garden boundaries. The work of eight winners of the International Creative Space Competition to design an instillation on the theme will be on display. Gilles Clément, who designed the landscape for the Parc André Citroën in Paris, is guest of honour. 29 September to 1 October. For the programme of events visit **orticolario.it**

SMALL-SPACE DESIGN

*With balconies, courtyards and other small spaces in mind, this painted steel, folding table by Fermob, the latest addition to its Bistro range, can be attached to railings and folded flat when not in use. Available in 24 colours; £317. madeindesign.co.uk*



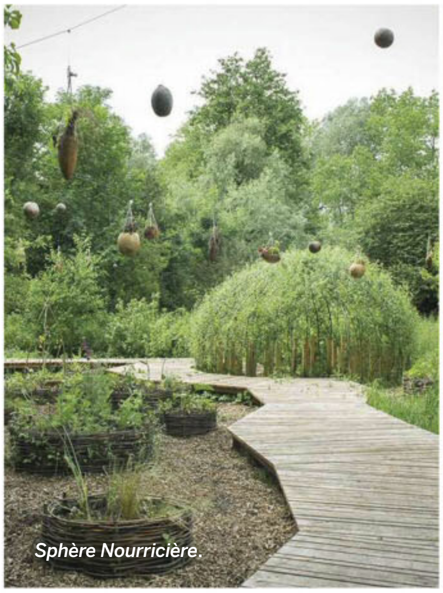
DARTINGTON HALL: JASON INGRAM, ORTICOLARIO FESTIVAL: LUCIANO MOVIO, VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON 2017

NEW PARK

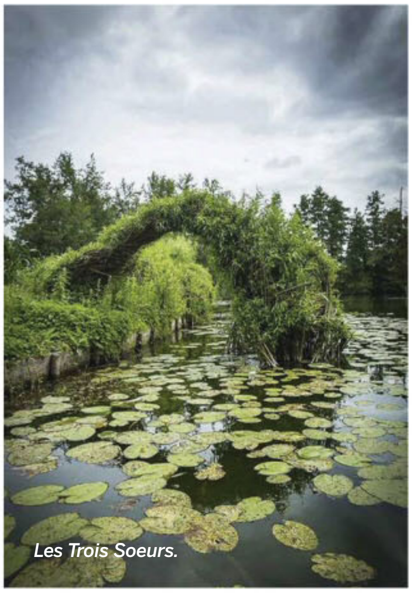
## On the right track

Since the completion of New York's High Line public park, plans for the transformation of disused urban railway tracks and other spaces have sprung up in cities across the world. Now one of the High Line's founders has set up the High Line Network, for projects in North America to share tips and advice on creating public parks in unusual spaces. One of the featured projects is the Queens Way, a community-led scheme to transform a 3.5-mile stretch of the disused Rockaway Beach Rail Line in Central Queens, New York, into a linear park. The design for the first half-mile stretch of the scheme has just been completed. **network.thehighline.org**

---



*Sphère Nourricière.*



*Les Trois Soeurs.*

FESTIVAL

## Wonders on the water

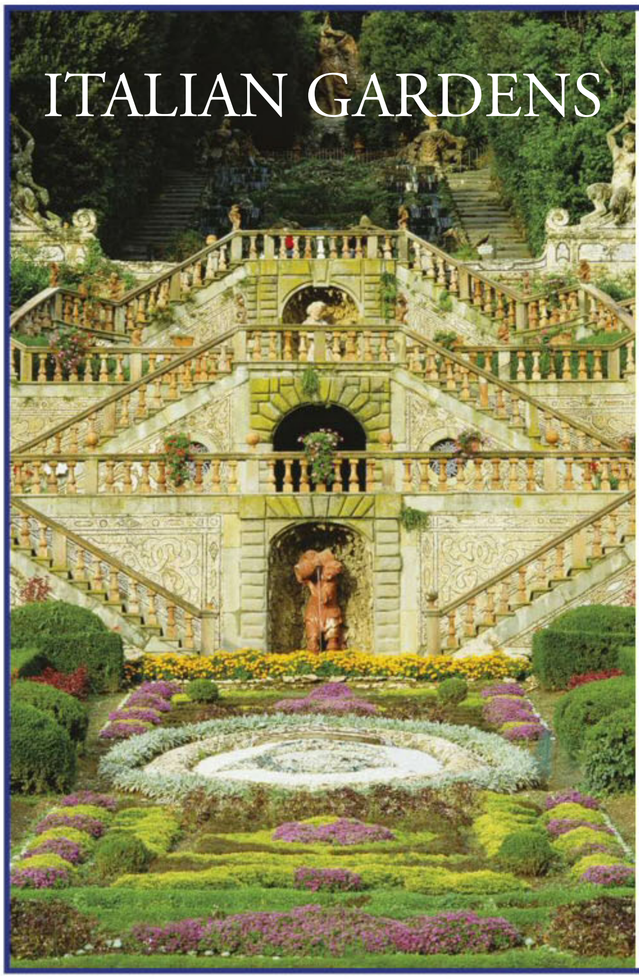
The eighth Les Hortillonnages d'Amiens festival will feature 45 artworks, installations and gardens on both land and water. Among the 13 new projects on show this year is a reflection on modern farming methods titled *Sphère Nourricière* by Marie Brégeon, Manon Bordet-Chavanes and Johann Laskowski, and *Les Trois Soeurs* by Escargo, a collective of designers, landscapers and artists from Montreal and Bordeaux. Their floating garden, inspired by a legend of three sisters who are the spirits of maize, squash and bean plants, is woven from three different cultivars of willow. Until 15 October. **www.visit-amiens.com**

## Notebook

- Chelsea gold medal winner Sarah Eberle is running a **garden design masterclass,** 'In the Mind's Eye', at Bury Court Gardens, Hampshire. The one-day course will help you develop the analytical skills that are key to understanding the visual strengths and weaknesses of a garden. 9 October, 10am-4.30pm, £120. burycourtbarn.com
- Book now for the **2017 New Zealand Flower & Garden Show**, which will take place at Waitakere, Auckland, from 29 November to 3 December. Directed by garden designer Kate Hillier, the five-day event will showcase New Zealand's top landscaping and gardening talent, as well as international designers, and more than 100 horticultural displays. nzflowergardenshow.co.nz
- The spirit of the International Garden Festival in Metis, northern Quebec, is captured in a new book ***Experimenting Landscapes: Testing the Limits of the Garden*** (Birkhäuser, £37.99). Edited by Emily Waugh, who teaches landscape architecture at Harvard University Graduate School of Design, the book helps explain the role of garden festivals in landscape design, and explores 25 of the participating gardens, mainly from 2008 to 2015 that test the limits of what a garden can do.
- Anyone wanting to learn the basics of designing their own garden should sign up to **An Introduction to Garden Design**, held on six consecutive Saturdays from 2 September to 7 October at RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. The course is led by experienced garden designer Cheri LaMay, and will be repeated on Fridays in early 2018, starting 27 January. rhs.org.uk/education-learning

LES HORTILLONNAGES D'AMIENS FESTIVAL; YANN MONEL

# ITALIAN GARDENS



SMALL GROUP TOURS
WITH GUIDED VISITS
OF ITALIAN GARDENS

- Maximum 14 people per group
- Local garden guides and guided garden visits included
- Six nights in 4 or 5 star hotels, two per tour
- British Airways flights included

Some late space for 2017 available
Tuscany 10 September
Veneto 13 September
Amalfi 14 September

THE ART OF INTELLIGENT
Expressions
TRAVEL ORGANISING

Founded 1989

ABTA The Travel Association

## TUSCANY

Visits: Poggio Torselli, Villa Vignamaggio, Villa Geggiano, Villa Grabau, Villa Reale
2018: 20 May, 10 June, 9 September
From £2,250 per person

## LAKES COMO AND MAGGIORE

Visits: Villa Babbianello, Villa Carlotta, Villa Monastero, Isola Bella, Isola Madre
2018: 15 May, 5 June, 26 June, 4 September
From £2,250 per person

## AMALFI COAST, CAPRI & ISCHIA

Visits: Villa Rufolo, Villa San Michele Axel Munthe, La Mortella
2018: 3 May, 24 May, 14 June, 13 September
From £2,350 per person

## ENVIRONS OF ROME

Visits: Villa d'Este, Villa Lante, Giardino di Ninfa, Landriana, Castel Gandolfo
2018: 16 May, 6 June, 27 June, 12 September
From £2,250 per person

## VENETO

Visits: Villa Barbarigo, Villa Emo, Villa Pisani, Giardino Giusti, Villa Rizzardi
2018: 20 June, 12 September
From £2,340 per person

**Please call us 01392 441275**
**www.expressionsholidays.co.uk**

---

# MUNTONS TRADITIONAL PLANT SUPPORTS

Introduce new height and impact with the architectural drama of arches or obelisks

A rose arch or obelisk will give an architectural framework to the garden year round and provide drama now. Keep staking tall asters and autumn flowering perennials.

**www.muntons.net**

☎ 01285 706511

**Muntons at:**

**Cedar Nursery**
Horsley Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3JX

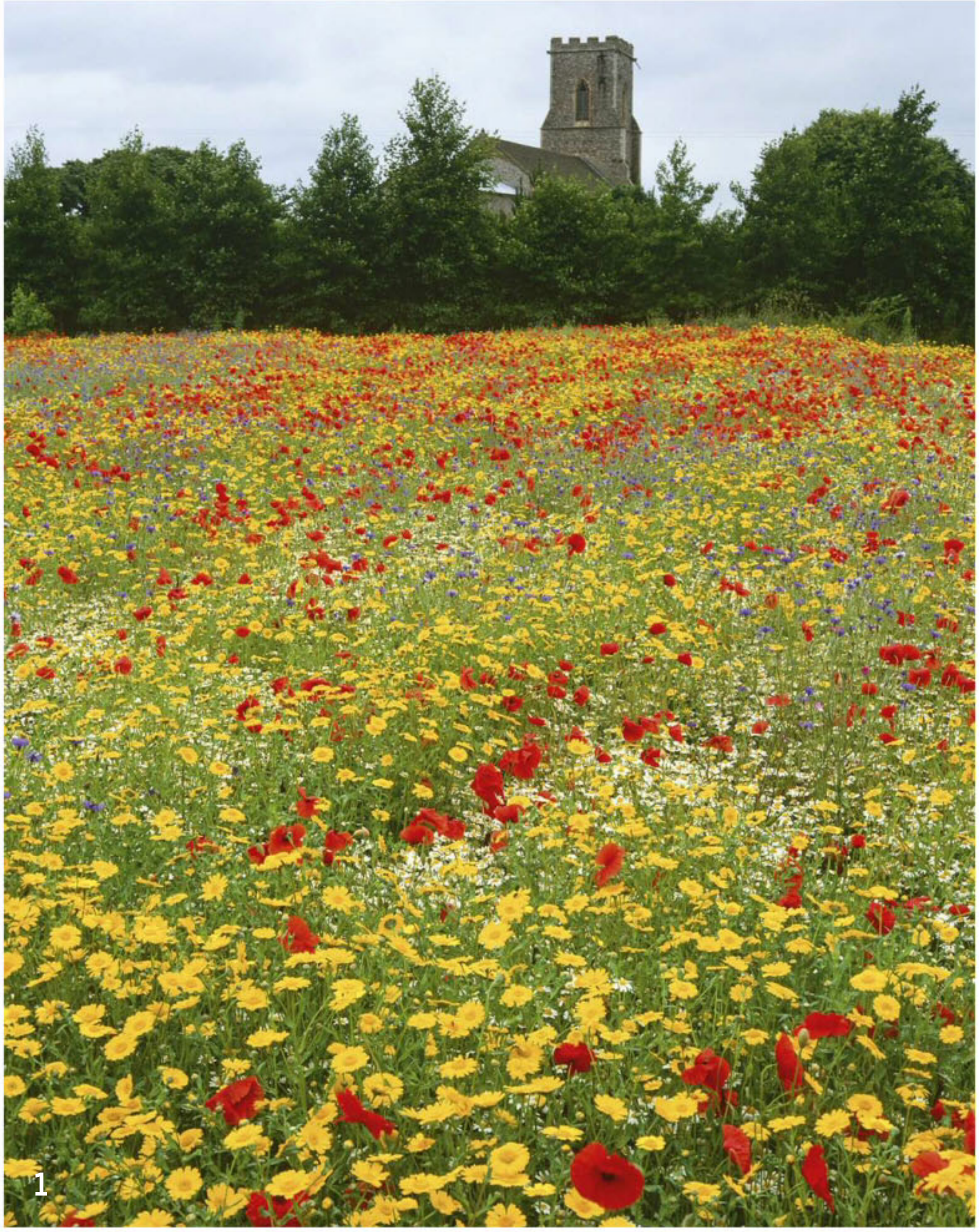
**Architectural Plants**
Stane Street, North Heath, Pulborough RH20 1DJ

**Burford Garden Company**
Shilton Road, Burford OX11 4PA

**Hortus Loci**
Hound Green, Hook RG27 8LQ

1 Field of dreams

A great flickering mass of corn marigolds, knapweed and poppies: this is what we all have in the back of our minds when we imagine meadows – romantic, drop-dead gorgeous, colourful and waving gently in a warm breeze. This one is at the Old Vicarage, East Ruston, a garden that is well worth the trek to Norfolk.



1 JONATHAN BUCKLEY / GAP PHOTOS . DESIGN: ALAN GRAY AND GRAHAM ROBESON

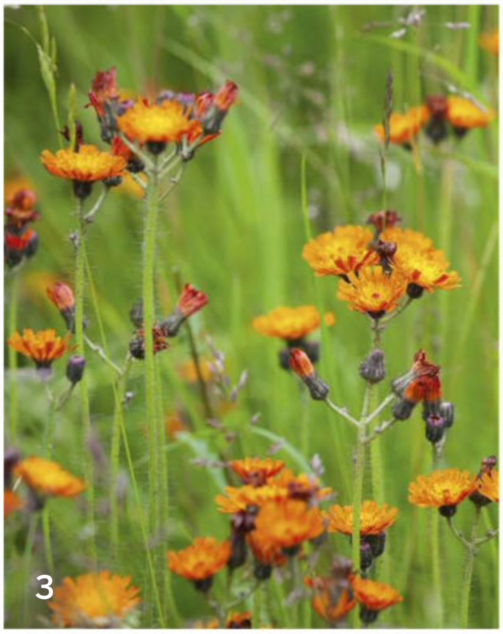
**James Alexander-Sinclair** is a garden designer, writer, broadcaster and founder of into-gardens.com. He has served on the RHS Council for the past five years.

# Pastures new

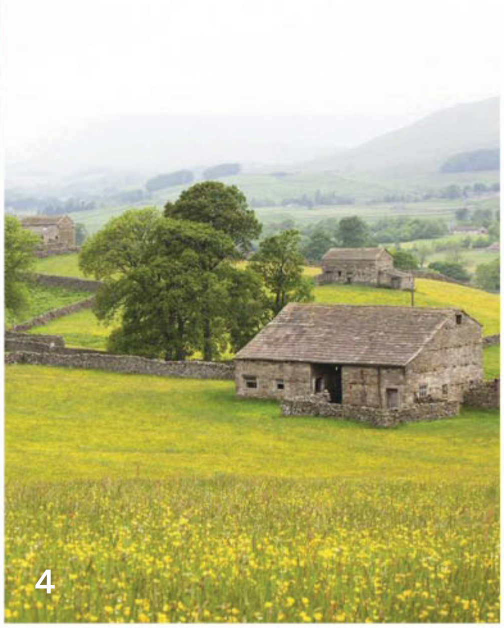
Nothing beats the romance of a beautiful meadow, as countless poets, scriptwriters and even chocolate manufacturers will testify. But it's notoriously difficult to create one yourself

WORDS JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR

2



3



4

2 JULIETTE WADE / GAP PHOTOS; 3 &4 JONATHAN BUCKLEY / GAP PHOTOS

## 2 Into the long grass

This is something that can be achieved in all but the smallest gardens just by letting some of the lawn grow long and peppering it with flowers. The contrast between wild and mown is always inviting.

## 3 Spice it up

*Pilosella aurantiaca* – aka fox and cubs, hen and chickens or devil's paintbrush – brings a welcome zing of orange into a wild planting. It's not strictly speaking a native wildflower, but no one is saying that meadows have to be either wild or native.

## 4 Gold dust

This is one of my favourite sights in early summer: a field spattered yellow with buttercups. For 20-odd years we lived next to just such a field (albeit not quite as pretty as these ones in Wensleydale with their tumbling barns and misty horizons) and it was always a pleasure to look at and to walk through. Your trouser legs would be dusted with yellow pollen and dew-pasted petals would stick to your boots. This field buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) is more elegant than the creeping *Ranunculus repens*.

Everybody loves the romantic idea of a meadow – running freely through long grasses and waving cornfield flora, possibly wearing a loose shift of broderie anglaise, before throwing yourself down in a field and chewing on a grassy stem while watching grasshoppers hop and crickets chirp. Perhaps in the distance you can see the weary (though ruggedly handsome) farmhand plodding home with scythe on shoulder and empty cider flaggon bumping against his moleskinned hip. Sounds marvellous, doesn't it? However, it is no simple matter to recreate a meadow – it's a bit like an episode of *Game of Thrones*. There will be death, love, storms, betrayal, disappointment, triumph, surprise, accidents, reunions and a great deal of sex.

I don't want to put you off too much, but it is important that you are under no illusions – scattering packets of optimistically labelled wildflower seeds on your lawn will not cut the mustard. Meadows require a fair bit of sweat. The first thing to understand is that good soil is your enemy: for millennia, mankind has been taught to improve the quality of the soil by heaping it with lovingly crafted compost and the combined manures of every available animal – from medieval night soil to mountains of Ecuadorian guano. For wildflowers, the opposite is the case as they thrive in horrible soil – ideally consisting of equal parts old rubble and dust. This is because your enemy is grass, which, given the slightest encouragement, will quickly dominate and smother all those delicate cornfield flowers and all of your dreams will come to nothing more than a tussocky paddock. Grass can be controlled a bit by establishing a miraculous plant called yellow rattle, which will gorge itself on the roots of grasses and keep things down a bit, but you will still have to

▷

## 5 Pollinators' paradise

This meadow was planted in Sussex by the very clever designer, Ian Kitson. It rolls beautifully away from the house and links the garden with the wilder surrounding woods and downland. Look carefully and you will see phacelias among the poppies and cornflowers – this plant is irresistible to bees as well as being an excellent green manure.

## 6 Fading beauty

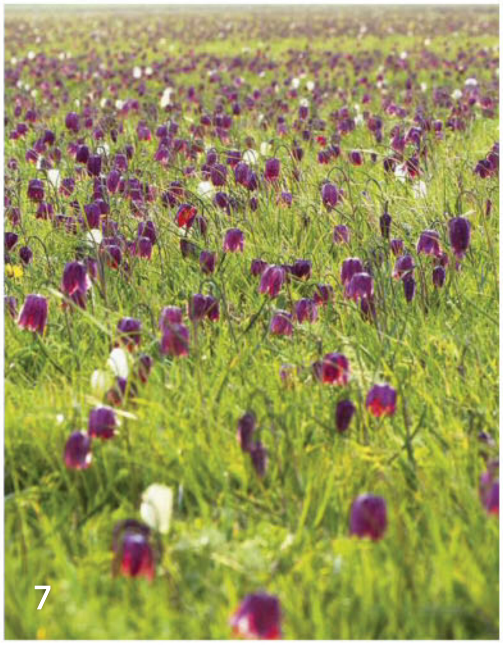
By August, the first sheen has gone from a meadow – the grass is more brown than green, and the early flowers have succumbed to wind and rain. However, we still have plantains, knapweed and *Knautia arvensis* (the field scabious).

## 7 A nod to tradition

This is, I think, one of the seven wonders of British horticulture. In spring, the wet banks between the River Key and the River Thames near Cricklade in Wiltshire are a place of pilgrimage to those of us who revel in the checkerboard glory of the snake's head fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*). There are thousands of them that have been left to their own devices for more than a century.

5

6

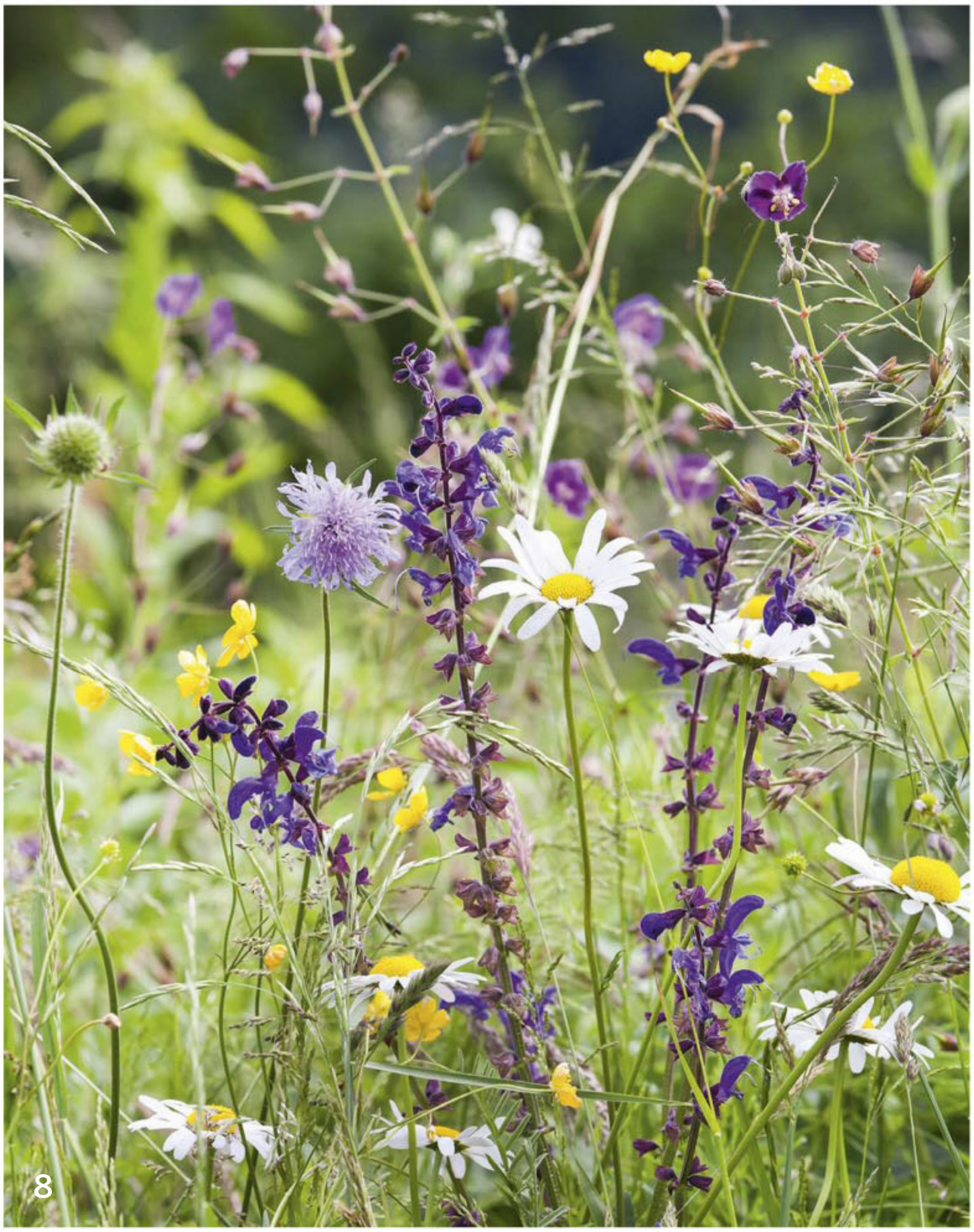

7

5 ABIGAIL REX / GAP PHOTOS, DESIGN: IAN KITSON; 6 ROBERT MABIC / GAP PHOTOS; 7 JONATHAN BUCKLEY

▷ spend time weeding for the first few years. You have been warned. The smaller the area, the easier it is to achieve your goal: if you are just thinking about converting a front garden, it may be sensible to invest in some wildflower turf, which saves a lot of time and effort.

Of course, not all meadows are wildflower meadows: there are damp fritillary meadows, orchid meadows, simple grassy meadows and surprise meadows – one of my client's lawns miraculously revealed itself to be a cowslip meadow this spring. You can create an annual meadow very easily – sow the seed in April and by mid June you will have something spectacular that willl carry on giving until the autumn. The downside is that you will have to do the same thing again next year. Another suggestion is to inject essence of meadow into your borders by upping the percentage of ornamental grasses and using herbaceous plants that emulate the wildflower – for example, foxgloves, verbascums, achilleas, veronicastrums, thalictrums or geraniums. I made a Chelsea Garden along these lines many years ago using a matrix of ornamental grasses (in that case *Anemanthele lessoniana* – which, in those days, was called *Stipa arundinacea*). It was not even slightly wild, but was meadowy in feel.

A failsafe option, which may not carry the same poetic heft but will still look fabulous, is a spring meadow using bulbs – starting with crocuses and progressing steadily through narcissi, tulips, camassias and alliums. This will get you through from about February until the end of June, which is not bad. After that, you will have to put up with some scruffy grass for a while before knocking it all back in September and starting all over again. If you drop a fruit tree or two into the mix as well, you can add a bit of height – as well as some blossom (the very best of which is quince blossom, as



8 ROBERT MABIC / GAP PHOTOS

## 8 Crowning glory

This is the sort of thing you are likely to see in a healthy and well-managed meadow. It is not an easy thing to establish and maintain, but, if you have thetime and the tenacity, it is a glorious thing. The flowers shown are (from left) *Ranunculus repens*, *Knautia arvensis*, *Salvia pratensis*, *Leucanthemum vulgare* (ox-eye daisy) and *Geranium phaeum*.

## Further reading

- ***Sowing Beauty*** by James Hitchmough (Timber Press, 2017).
- ***Making a Wildflower Meadow*** by Pam Lewis (Frances Lincoln, 2015).
- ***Meadows at Great Dixter and Beyond*** by Christopher Lloyd (Pimpernel Press, 2016).
- ***RHS Companion to Wildlife Gardening*** by Chris Baines (Frances Lincoln, 2016).

## Sowing your own

- Pictorial Meadows has a good range of annual and perennial seeds. **pictorialmeadows.co.uk**
- Try Emorsgate Seeds if you need something site-specific. **wildseed.co.uk**
- An easier option is to use wildflower turf (but you still need to get rid of perennial weeds). Try Lindum ( **turf.co.uk**) or Wildflower Turf (**wildflowerturf.co.uk**).

delicate as the ears of fairy queens) – with the obvious advantage of having a decent autumn harvest.

But if you want the real thing, you have my admiration and cheers of encouragement. You need to persevere: once the soil is prepared, find yourself a really good seed merchant and explain your situation exactly – the soil make-up, the pH measure, and the sunshine and moisture levels. A good supplier will advise you on what will actually grow and thrive rather than make you gnash your teeth in frustration. But remember, suppliers aren't miracle workers; you will still have to do the weeding. The good news is that, if you stick with it, you will be rewarded with something so romantic and gorgeous that as the setting sun dances through the waving grasses you will feel that you have been transported to a 1970s' Flake advertisement: 'Only the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate…' ☐

## Places to visit

Cricklade North Meadow, north Wiltshire. This National Nature Reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and boasts the largest population of snake's head fritillaries in the UK. **crickladeinbloom.co.uk/north_meadow.html**

Clattinger Farm Nature Reserve, Wiltshire. This lowland grassland, opened by Prince Charles in 1997, features meadow saffron, tubular water-dropwort, orchids and downy-fruited sedge. The hay is cut after the flowers have seeded. **wiltshirewildlife.org**

Runnymede was the site of the signing of the Magna Carta. It is now run by the National Trust and the riverside meadows play host to a wide range of wildflowers. **nationaltrust.org.uk/runnymede**

Leander
Est. 1980

PLANT SUPPORTS

*Beautiful designs for herbaceous perennials, roses, shrubs & climbers. Made in England.*

**www.leanderplantsupports.co.uk**
**Tel: 01773 550495 for a brochure**

### THE SHORT LIST

# Outdoor showers

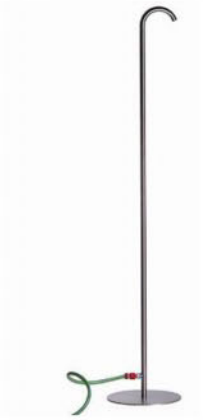
Nine watertight designs for poolside cool

**ADJUSTABLE SHOWERHEAD**

**Outdoor Sun Shower,**
€165, De Wiltfang, +31 (0)346 218111,
dewiltfang.nl

**SOLAR-POWERED**

**Outdoor Shower with Base,**
€3,552, Jardin Chic,
+33 (0)4 50 01 34 96, jardinchic.net

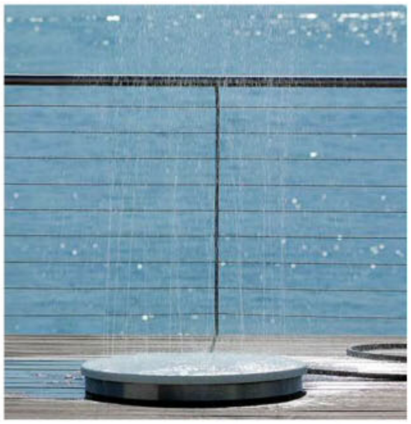


**SLEEK AND SIMPLE**

**Stainless Steel Outdoor Shower,**
£582, Coro,
+39 (0)80 2460421, archiproducts.com

**RAIN-CURTAIN EFFECT**

**Garden Shower,**
£3,000, Röshults,
01986 781663, naken.co.uk



**PRESSURE-SENSORED**

**Viteo Urban Garden Shower,**
£709, Encompass,
023 9241 0045, encompassco.com

**POP OF COLOUR**

**Douche,**
€1,487, Laorus,
+33 (0)6 31 09 03 68, laorus.fr

**FIVE COLOURWAYS**

**Pasaia Shower,**
£771, Fermob,
020 8878 1994, barbed.co.uk

**ELEGANT FINISH**

**Niagara Outdoor Shower,**
£2,050, Tectona,
+33 (0)1 47 03 05 05, tectona.net

**MULTI-PURPOSE**

**Outdoor Lyman Shower Stake,**
£722, plus £18 for hose connector, Rowen & Wren,
01276 451077, rowenandwren.co.uk

COMPILED BY ALYS HURN

ING 50TH ISSUE • CELEBRATING 50TH ISSUE • CELEBRATING 50TH ISSUE • CELEBRATING 50TH ISSUE • CELEBRATING 50TH ISSUE • CELEBRATING 50TH ISSUE • CELEBRATING 50TH ISSUE • CELEBRATING 5

# SAVE 50%

## when you subscribe to Love Patchwork & Quilting

18 MODERN MAKES
EYE CANDY
18 FRESH DESIGNS
COOL BLUES
~~£77.87~~
YOU PAY £38.94

The 50th issue of *Love Patchwork & Quilting* hits the shops this month and we're celebrating with a special offer! Save a whopping 50% when you subscribe today and get 13 issues a year for just £38.94

## YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DEAL

- 13 issues for £38.94* - **saving 50%**
- **JUST** ~~£5.99~~ **£2.99** per copy
- **FREE** gift with every issue
- **FREE** UK home delivery

**BUYSUBSCRIPTIONS.COM/LP50HA3**

OR CALL 0844 576 7854* QUOTING LP50HA3

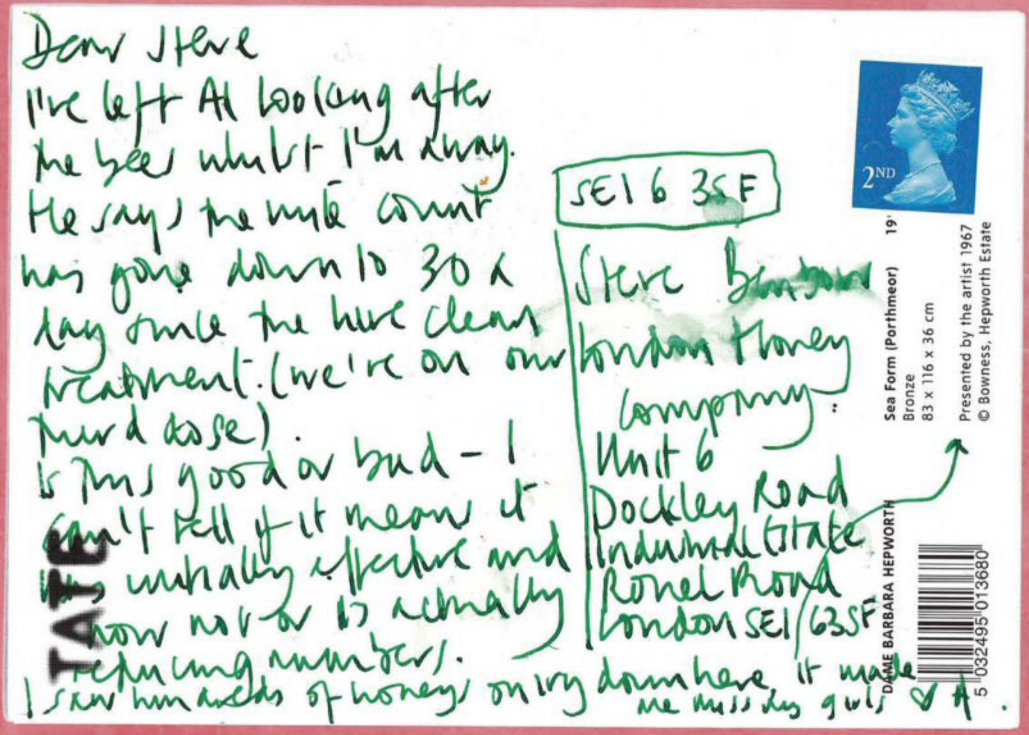
Lines open 8am–8pm weekdays, 9am–1pm Saturdays.
*UK calls to 0844 numbers will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge. Mobile charges may vary.

LovePatchworkandQuilting @LoveQuiltingMag LoveQuiltingMag LoveQuiltingMag

**Terms and Conditions:** *SAVE 50% offer available to UK Direct Debit orders only. After your first 13 issues your payments will continue at £46.72 saving 40%. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. **Offer ends 31 August 2017.**
**Data Protection:** Your personal information will be used as set out in our Privacy Policy which can be viewed at Immediate.co.uk/privacy-policy.

# Downtools

Book reviews, crossword, back issues, reader offer



Dear Steve
I've left Al looking after
the bees whilst I'm away.
He says the mite count
has gone down to 30 a
day since the hive clear
treatment. (we're on our
third dose).
Is this good or bad – I
can't tell if it means it
was initially effective and
now not or is actually
reducing numbers.
I saw hundreds of honeys on ivy down here, it made
me miss my girls ♥ A.

SE16 3SF

Steve Benbow
London Honey
Company
Unit 6
Dockley Road
Industrial Estate
Rouel Road
London SE16 3SF

2ND

**Sea Form (Porthmeor)** 19
Bronze
83 x 116 x 36 cm

Presented by the artist 1967
© Bowness, Hepworth Estate

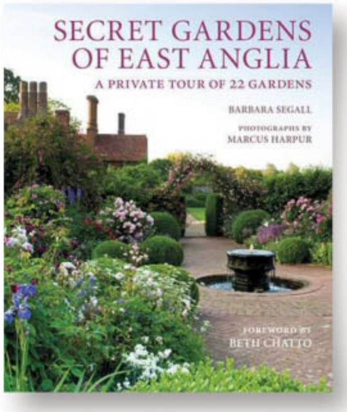
DAME BARBARA HEPWORTH

TATE

5 032495 013680

Discover a fascinating friendship based on plants and insects in *Letters to a Beekeeper*, reviewed on page 102.

# Book reviews


SECRET GARDENS OF EAST ANGLIA
A PRIVATE TOUR OF 22 GARDENS
BARBARA SEGALL
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARCUS HARPUR
FOREWORD BY BETH CHATTO

**SECRET GARDENS OF EAST ANGLIA**
by Barbara Segall,
photography by
Marcus Harper
Frances Lincoln, £20

ISBN 978-1856233019

## *A private tour around 22 largely unknown gardens in East Anglia that is sure to tempt any garden lover to visit the area.*

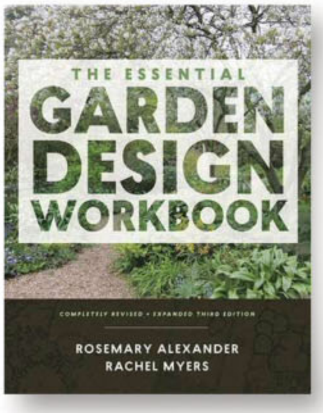
*Reviewer Henrietta Courtauld is one half of The Land Gardeners.*

The use of the word 'secret' in the title conjures up the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, in which Mary Lennox discovers *The Secret Garden* hidden behind old brick walls. In this book Barbara Segall allows us to discover a largely unknown selection of gardens in East Anglia, most of which are open to the public at some point during the year.

A foreword by the brilliant plantswoman Beth Chatto states so appropriately that 'each of us, in our own gardens, are artists', and these highly personal gardens reflect the varied personalities of their owners. It is fun to see photographs of the owners, allowing us to guess at the style of their gardens in the pages that follow. I was especially taken by Lady Fairhaven's pea-green jacket and Lord Fairhaven's immaculately creased trousers, only to turn the page to discover the unsurprisingly generous swathes of colour at Kirtling Tower, Cambridgeshire, where waves of blue camassias stretch out into the fields.

Marcus Harpur (an East Anglian himself), has captured beautifully the varied gardens of his locality. At times I yearned for larger photographs so I could really soak up the atmosphere, but the advantage of a plethora of pictures is that there are wonderful close-ups of individual plants.

Barbara Segall has written informative passages on what makes each owner tick and included useful gardening tips. The book has tempted us to visit more gardens in this area. I long to see the roses at both Wyken Hall and Helmingham Hall in Suffolk, and the restored walled garden and Elizabethan herb garden at Raveningham Hall, Norfolk. I am also intrigued by the gardens at Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire, setting for the Green Knowe children's novels.



**THE ESSENTIAL GARDEN DESIGN WORKBOOK (3RD EDITION)**
by Rosemary Alexander and
Rachel Myers
Timber Press, £25

ISBN 978-1604696615

## *An essential guide to designing gardens, aimed at prospective professionals and anyone wishing to design their own.*

*Reviewer Camilla Phelps is a garden writer.*

The book takes you step-by-step through the process of designing a garden, from detailed site survey through to the final plans and aftercare – all from the perspective of a new or aspiring designer. The attention to detail at every stage is fantastic. As someone who trained in garden design nearly 20 years ago, reading it felt like I was on an inspiring refresher course.

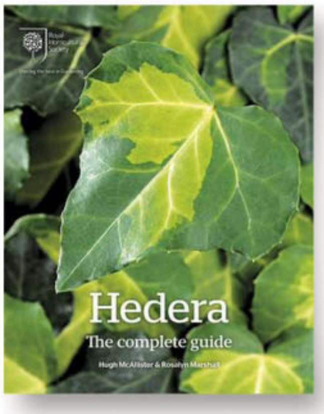
Of course you would expect nothing less from Rosemary Alexander. When she founded the English Gardening School in 1983, there were few other places to study garden design. Now there are many to choose from, but anyone thinking about a career in garden design should read this book.

It gives you an overview, not simply of the design process, but also of running a business. It looks at dealing with clients, contractors and suppliers and all the aspects of working as a professional in the field. Design styles and a top 50 of the best garden plants are included, as well as how to cost up your design, plus a range of plans, templates, and drawings.

This is the third update to Rosemary Alexander's original book. It was first published in 2004, and in this edition she collaborates with Rachel Myers, fellow tutor at the English Gardening School. The latest uses of technology are covered, but it is great to see such a detailed guide to hand-drawn methods.

There is no glossing over the less glamorous sides of the job, or the difficult situations you might encounter. So you really will come away feeling well prepared.

Even if you don't want to be a designer, it is a book worth having. It will guide you through designing your own garden and help you to understand the process and the costs, should you wish to employ someone else.



**HEDERA: THE COMPLETE GUIDE.**
by Hugh McAllister and Rosalyn Marshall
Royal Horticultural Society, £40

ISBN 978-1907057731

*A detailed and authoritative study of the genus* Hedera *that will enlighten enthusiasts and convert the sceptical.*

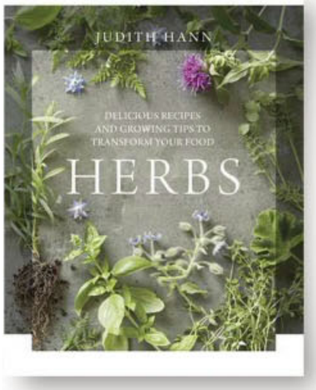
*Reviewer Matthew Biggs is a Kew-trained gardener and presenter.*

The RHS has made a welcome return to publishing monographs on garden plants, first with *Kniphofia* and now *Hedera*, a genus that divides opinion among gardeners. It is a bold statement to proclaim any book 'the complete guide,' but the joy of a monograph is in the diversity within the subject matter, and the forensic detail with which it is analysed. This fact-filled tome delivers perfectly. The academic and practical authority of the authors, and the pages of references, prove that no leaf has been left unturned.

Within the first pages you become immersed in the world of ivy and build an intimate relationship with the plant. The book covers its history and distribution, traditional uses, morphology and reproduction, and even quirky tales, such as those about the giant ivies of western Norway.

The work is further enhanced by contributions from RHS experts including luminaries such as Brent Elliott, historian at the RHS, who expounds on the role of ivy in the decorative arts. Others focus on practical areas, including the benefits of using ivy for thermal insulation or for providing ecosystems for wildlife. Detailed photography and the beautiful botanical paintings of Josephine Hague complement the text, and although factual and scientific, it never becomes tedious.

It is appropriate that the latter pages are devoted to a guide to the species, hybrids and cultivars in their many forms, and how to grow them. It is a colourful reminder of the range of ivies available to the gardener. This fascinating monograph will enrich the appreciation of the converted; if you are among those who dismiss ivy as a weed with no place in a garden, there is ample evidence to convince you to change your mind.



**HERBS**
by Judith Hann
Nourish, £20

ISBN 978-1848992825

*Wonderful seasonal recipes combine with practical advice on growing and using a wide variety of herbs.*

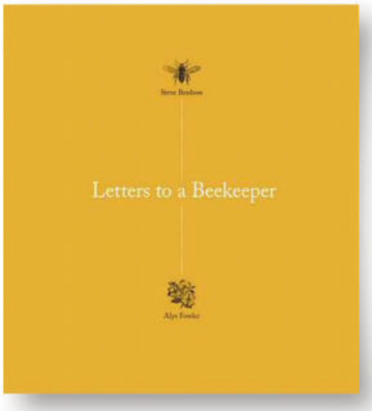
*Reviewer Jojo Tulloh is a gardener-cook and award-winning writer.*

TV broadcaster and author Judith Hann has been serious about herbs for decades. This book is written with all the authority that comes from a long accumulation of knowledge. Twenty years ago Hann and her family moved to a small farm with tumbledown outbuildings and she began to grow herbs on a large scale. Initially, she read exhaustively and drew up a plan (this is reproduced but is frustratingly small), and converted a semi-derelict pig yard into her herb garden. She and her husband rebuilt the stone walls to provide shelter and to grow figs, grapes and roses, and split the garden into sections with a central pond for frogs ('to eat the slugs') and a 'pudding bed' to grow dessert herbs, such as sweet cicely and lavender.

The book is divided into seasons, with a page for each herb, its history, and growing and culinary advice, followed by beautifully photographed and very enticing recipes (such as Sage and Garlic Roast Pork Belly with Power Plum Sauce). Each season also suggests two or three techniques to get to grips with (herb pesto, tisanes, ices, oils, vinegars and edible flowers, and so on). The prose is personal and chatty, with memories of meals cooked for loved ones.

Over time Hann has become a serious plantswoman and on the evidence of this book, a serious cook too. She is good at explaining things simply. Herbs are either 'hard' (bay, thyme, rosemary) and useful for long cooking, or 'soft' (basil, coriander, parsley, chervil) and added right at the end or scattered over salads. The book is also full of practical asides: lemon verbena makes a good substitute for lemongrass; the perennial winter savory is good for edging formal beds. 'Herbs have taken over my life,' writes Hann. With this book they may well take over yours too.

# Book reviews



## LETTERS TO A BEEKEEPER

by Alys Fowler
and Steve Benbow
Unbound, £20

ISBN 978-1783521159

*A heart-warming tale of perseverance and survival between bees, plants and those who want to lend a helping hand.*

*Reviewer Alys Hurn is staff writer for* Gardens Illustrated.

My dad is a beekeeper and I have grown up knowing the hard work and devotion involved in keeping bees. It's a full-time job and an emotional one too – losing bees to varroa mite or to a bitter winter is heart breaking but the sound of happy bees, the taste of fresh honey, and the warming scent of cedar and beeswax is magic.

*Letters to a Beekeeper* documents that hard work, frustration and exhilaration of beekeeping between urban bee expert, Steve Benbow and gardener and beekeeping first-timer Alys Fowler. The deal is this, Benbow helps Fowler to keep bees in a top bar hive and in return, Fowler helps him plant a wild, pollinater-friendly garden at London's Tate Britain. By reading their emails, texts and letters written on the back of seed packets and post cards, you learn a lot about how plants and bees are intrinsically linked.

Fowler goes into amazing detail about why certain plants are better for bees and includes statistics on the amount of pollen a honey bee colony requires every year (15-55kg, if you're wondering).

Benbow's experience of keeping bees is vast, and he patiently guides Fowler through the challenges of beekeeping, drawing on his extensive network of beekeepers who help him out when Fowler's more experimental style of beekeeping vexes him.

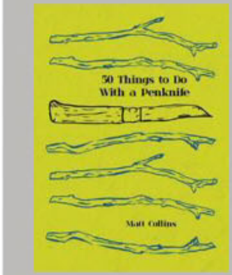
Benbow and Fowler impress and frustrate each other in equal measure. They're both anxious about their new ventures and impatient for success, which makes for an entertaining read.

For Fowler, honey isn't her goal – a decision that baffles Benbow – instead she takes comfort from seeing the bees at work and making sure they have the plants they need to survive.

Ultimately, this book is an advocate for bees and pollinating plants and it highlights the delicate balance of nature. □

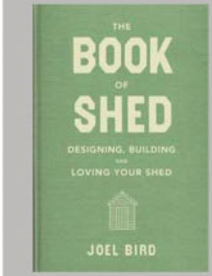
## Other books

Our pick of other new titles, this month covering house plants, gardens to visit and sheds and tools.



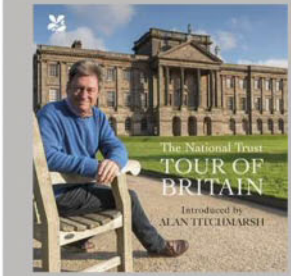
### 50 THINGS TO DO WITH A PENKNIFE

by Matt Collins
Pavilion Books, £9.99
ISBN 978-1911216865
A fun book that mixes craftsmanship with savvy survival skills.



### THE BOOK OF SHED

by Joel Bird
Blink Publishing, £20
ISBN 978-1911274803
Find inspiration and useful information to help you plan for and create the perfect garden shed.



### THE NATIONAL TRUST TOUR OF BRITAIN

by Anna Groves and Sally Palmer
National Trust Books, £25
ISBN 978-1911358190
Admire stunning places across the British Isles that are cared for by the National Trust.

URBAN BOTANICS

### URBAN BOTANICS

by Emma Sibley, illustrations by Maaike Koster
Aurum Press Ltd, £18
ISBN 978-1781316535
A collection of beautiful illustrations of house plants with advice on how to grow them.

KIRSTIN VON GLASOW
111 GARDENS IN LONDON THAT YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

### 111 GARDENS IN LONDON THAT YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

by Kirstin von Glasow
Emons Verlag, £11.99
ISBN 978-3740801434
A guide to London's greenest areas, from Royal Parks to rooftops and nature reserves.

**OXFORD COLLEGE of GARDEN DESIGN**

Train as a professional garden designer. Join our online 1 Year Professional Diploma in Garden Design

NEW for working designers, Online Construction, Business & Professional Practice Course

Book now
www.ocgd.org Tel:+44 (0)1491 628950

---

**OVER 2000 COLOURS TO CHOOSE FROM**

osmo

01296 481220 l osmouk.com

osmo
Natural Oil Woodstain
osmo
Country Colour High Solid

SPECIALLY MIXED TO ANY RAL OR NCS COLOUR

**CUSTOM COLOURS:** Highest quality colour and protection for wood

✓ MICROPOROUS | ✓ DURABLE | ✓ UV-RESISANT | ✓ OIL-BASED | ✓ HIGH COVERAGE

---

keder greenhouse | For The Serious Gardener

Proven to withstand wind speeds of 140mph

**All year round growing**

**10 Year Guarantee Against UV Degradation**

- Superior growing environment
- Unique bubble cladding giving excellent heat retention
- Resistant against extreme weather conditions
- Excellent light transmission
- Low Maintenance
- The strongest and warmest greenhouses for the serious gardener
- Can be extended
- Available in a wide range of sizes

**Keder Greenhouse Limited**
**Newtown, Offenham, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 8RZ**
t: +44 (0) 1386 49094 sales@kedergreenhouse.co.uk
www.kedergreenhouse.co.uk @KederGreenhouse

---

CARRIER COMPANY
norfolk england

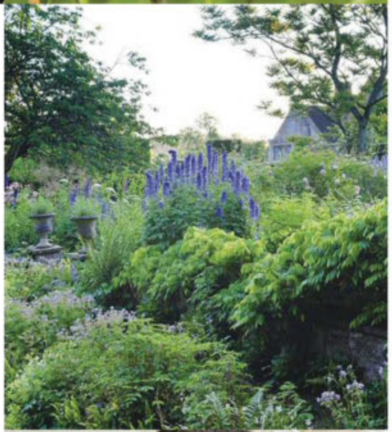
Rural Workwear & Accessories.
Handmade in Norfolk, England. Stand EA500

carriercompany.co.uk
+44 (0)1328 820699
Church Farm House, Wighton, Norfolk, NR23 1AL, UK

# GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

We offer far more than just a magazine, so why not subscribe and be among the first to find out about our **exclusive lectures, reader events** and **garden holidays**? You can also get the latest updates on our **website** and keep up to date with all our events by subscribing to our free **newsletter**, listening to our **podcasts** and following us on:

For details of how to subscribe see page 30
or visit gardensillustrated.com

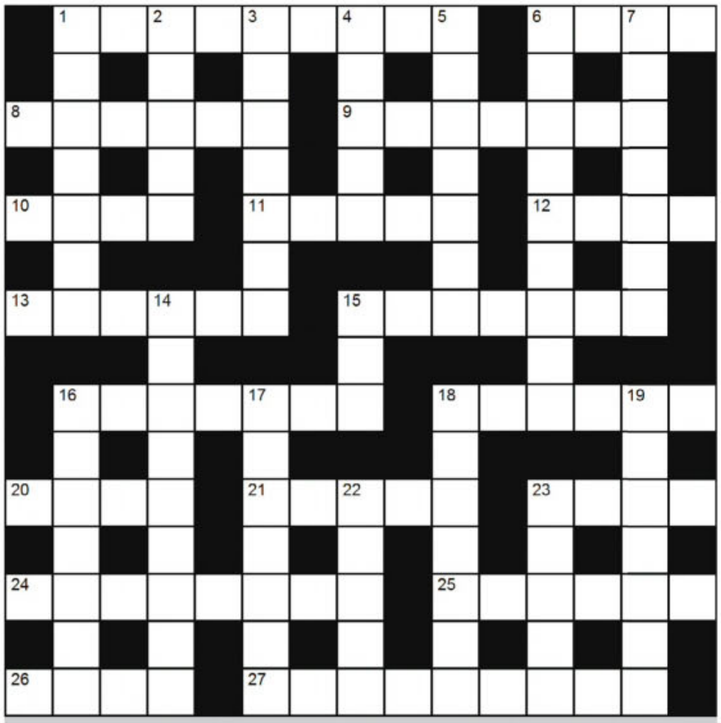


GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Northern light
Rich planting in a cool climate
SEPTEMBER PALETTE
the best plants for late summer colour
Ann-Marie Powell designs a sloping rural garden
Expert guide to colourful cosmos
Refreshing ideas
Pools and ponds for outdoor swimming

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

JASON INGRAM, ANDREW MONTGOMERY, HOWARD SOOLEY, RACHEL WARNE

# Crossword



**ACROSS**

**1** Little Richard is on a different genus of tree ferns! (9)

**6** An ornamental wild carrot partly naturalised, a rarity (4)

**8** Wealthy businessman's violet-blue Siberian iris (6)

**9** Marked, like foliage affected by red spider mite (7)

**10** It helps disperse dandelion seeds – blast! (4)

**11** Yellowish colour eg of hebe 'James Stirling' (5)

**12** Curved shape, left off *Larix* tree (4)

**13** Result of cross-pollination – in healthy *Bridelia*? (6)

**15** Scented climber – after winter it has yellow flowers! (7)

**16** Common hawthorn might, preceding woody plant (3,4)

**18** 'Tree tops', one gets in replica (6)

**20** Another name for 'indigo' shrub and its dye (4)

**21** Essence ... of what a *Hibiscus* lacks (5)

**23** Short, branched shoot – an incentive (4)

**24** Eg *Cyathea* plant, possibly rent-free (4,4)

**25** Genus of candytuft – live inside iris (6)

**26** Swithinbank reveals a way to weed out unwanted seedlings (4)

**27** Pond plant *Acorus calamus* – eg was left damaged (5,4)

**DOWN**

**1** Short-lived plant, genus *Hemerocallis* (7)

**2/19** Heavenly Japanese style of tree-shaping? (5,7)

**3** Small, orange-coloured cherry tomato makes slug nod! (7)

**4** Insect larva and a bi-coloured gladioli (5)

**5** Pollen-producing flower parts (7)

**6** Dog's name for a series of spotted foxgloves! (9)

**7** Rootlet that sounds fundamental? (7)

**14** *Osmunda regalis* – a majestic, spore-producing plant (5,4)

**15** __ Swift, garden designer / *Gardeners' World* presenter (3)

**16** No returning in a month for sunflower with large blooms (7)

**17** Apple cultivars such as 'Egremont' and 'St Edmund's Pippin' (7)

**18** Aromatic plant, genus *Nepeta*, attractive to feline (7)

**19** See 2 down

**22** Fuchsia with white/cerise flowers – Eric's partner (5)

**23** The woman will, shortly, remove pea from pod! (5)

**SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH**

**AUGUST'S SOLUTION**

**ACROSS 1** Apple pip **6** Earthy **9** Wasp **10** Carum **11** Mole **12** Vernus **14** Succory **15** Acid soil **17** Narrow **19** Alisma **21** Mandrake **23** Nursery **25** Thrips **27** Dung **28** Ovate **29** Fall **30** Raceme **31** Daydream.

**DOWN 2** Plane **3** Lip **4** Picasso **5** Parasol **6** Eomecon **7** Rambo **8** Hollyhock **13** Nodes **16** Calendula **18** Rarer **20** Anemone **21** Maynard **22** Nuttery **24** Rogue **26** Pilea **29** Fir.

## BUYING BACK ISSUES OF GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

**PRINT VERSION**

You can buy printed issues of the magazine published up to 12 months ago. See below for details.

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED
SPRING BULBS TO PLANT NOW
Pretty in pink
The joy of plants

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED
5 Stylish small gardens
BEYOND SUMMER
Agapanthus

**DIGITAL VERSION**

Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 30.

**CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES**

Cost from £9.50 each (inc p&p). *Subscriber discounts available – see below for details.*

**TO ORDER PRINTED COPIES OR SLIPCASES**

| | |
|---|---|
| UNITED KINGDOM | OUTSIDE UK |
| 03330 162114 | +44 1604 973722 |

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED PRINTED ISSUES ORDER FORM

Complete the order form and send to: *Gardens Illustrated*, Back Issues, PO Box 279, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DF. (You may photocopy this form.)

**SINGLE ISSUES**

I would like to order ____________ copy/copies of issue(s)____________

| **SUBSCRIBERS** | **NON-SUBSCRIBERS** |
|---|---|
| ☐ UK – £4.40 per copy | ☐ UK – £5.50 per copy |
| ☐ EU – £5.20 per copy | ☐ EU – £6.50 per copy |
| ☐ Rest of world – £6 per copy | ☐ Rest of world – £7.50 per copy |

**CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES**

I would like to order ____________slipcase(s)

| **SUBSCRIBERS** | **NON-SUBSCRIBERS** |
|---|---|
| ☐ UK – £7.50 each | ☐ UK – £9.50 each |
| ☐ EU – £8.50 each | ☐ EU – £10.75 each |
| ☐ Rest of world – £9.50 each | ☐ Rest of world – £12 each |

*Postage & packaging is included in all prices.*

**PAYMENT DETAILS**

☐ I enclose a cheque/international money order made payable to *Gardens Illustrated* for £ ____________

☐ I would like to pay by credit/debit card, please debit my card

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ Issue no. (Maestro only) ☐☐

Signature Date / /

**YOUR DETAILS**

Title Forename

Surname

Address

Post/Zip code

Daytime tel no.

Email address

Subscriber number (if applicable)

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# Nursery Collection

1

2

3

4

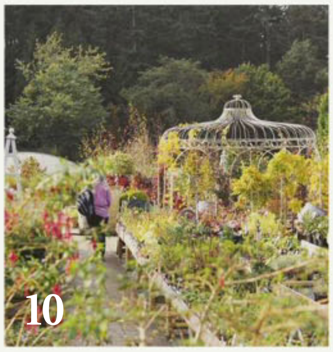
5

6

7

8

9


10

11

Image: Clive Nichols

12

## 1. KEN MUIR

As a family business with over 50 years experience, we pride ourselves on providing the highest quality fruit trees, soft fruits, canes and vines. We aim to help even novice gardeners feel comfortable growing their own fruit.

**kenmuir.co.uk | 01255 830181**

## 2. HARE SPRING COTTAGE PLANTS

Camassia and sidalcea specialists. National Collection Holder of camassia. Buy camassia and sidalcea online.

**harespringcottageplants.co.uk**

## 3. THORNCROFT CLEMATIS NURSERY

With over 400 cultivars of clematis and other climbers, we grow high-quality plants, offer expert advice and an award-winning mail-order service.

**thorncroftclematis.co.uk | 01953 850407**

## 4. BOTANY PLANTS

East Northdown Nursery. Kent CT9 3TS and Mucklestone Nurseries, Staffordshire TF9 4FA. 3,000 different trees, shrubs and perennials. RHS plantfinder codes SEND and MMuc.

**botanyplants.co.uk | info@botanyplants.co.uk**

## 5. WOOTTENS OF WENHASTON

25 years' experience growing high-quality herbaceous perennials. Mail order, design service & courses available. 20% off throughout September using code GIWOOT17.

**woottensplants.com | 01502 478 258**

## 6. SPRING REACH NURSERY

Visit Surrey's finest nursery. We have the finest-quality, home-grown plants. Our fantastic range includes clematis, trees, hedging, fruit, shrubs, perennials, climbers and grasses, all backed by expert advice.

**springreachnursery.co.uk | 01483 284769**

## 7. PENNARD PLANTS

We grow things you can eat – unusual edibles, fruit trees and bushes, 600 varieties of heirloom vegetable seeds, Burpee varieties, edible flowers. From Agretti to Szechuan Pepper.

**pennardplants.com | 01749 860039**

## 8. OLD COURT NURSERIES

Visit the nursery and garden for high-quality perennials and more. One hundred and eleven years experience and a collection of more than 420 varieties of Michaelmas daisy at the foot of the beautiful Malvern Hills.

**autumnasters.co.uk | 01684 540416**

## 9. DAISY CLOUGH NURSERIES

Daisy Clough Nurseries specialise in a huge variety of perennials and grasses grown on site in Lancashire. Open seven days a week. Quality, home-grown shrubs, bedding and vegetable plants always available.

**daisyclough.com | 01524 793104**

## 10. DUCHY OF CORNWALL NURSERY

Offering a wide selection of plants from camellias and magnolias to perennials and house plants, along with an award-winning café. Located in the beautiful Fowey Valley.

**duchyofcornwallnursery.co.uk | 01208 872668**

## 11. TWELVE NUNNS

Buy our Harvington Hellebores® as pot plants now. Thirty different varieties. Carefully packed and planting advice enclosed. Propagated and grown on our UK nursery in peat-free compost.

**twelvenunns.co.uk | 01778 590455**

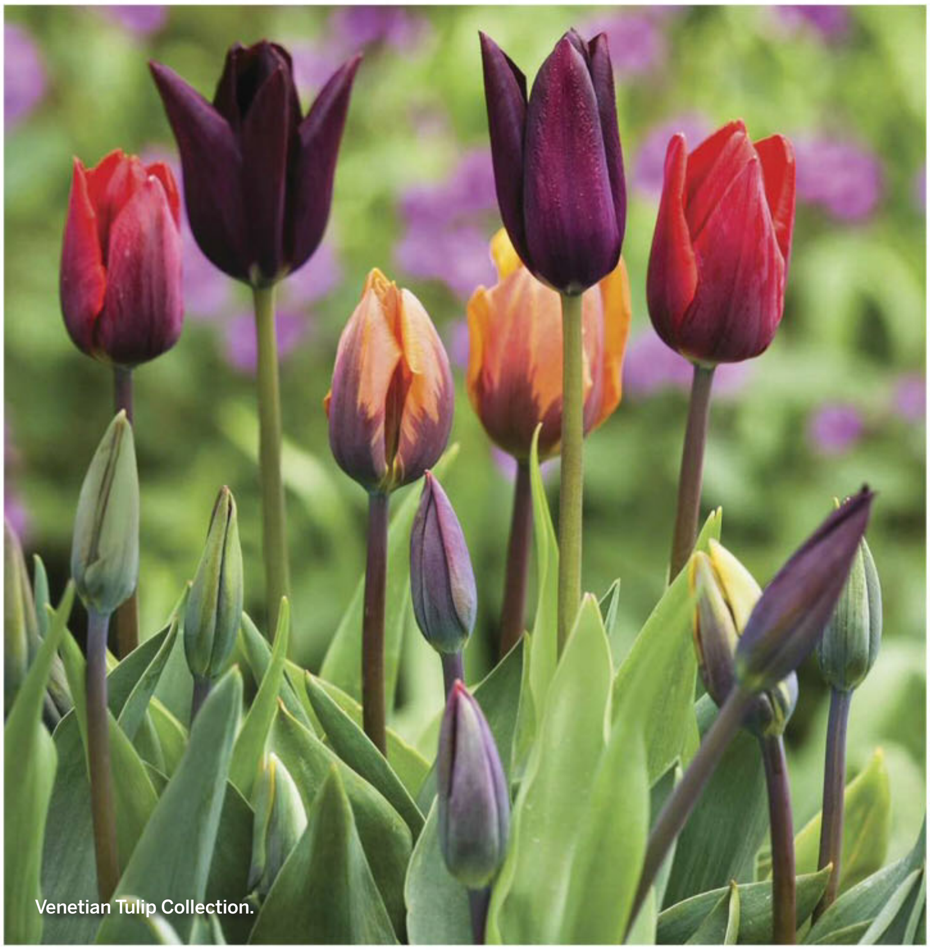
## 12. CLEEVE NURSERY

Set in the countryside between Bristol and Weston-super-Mare, you will find a fantastic selection of plants – over 700 varieties of which are home-grown. The coffee shop is open 10.30am-4pm every day.

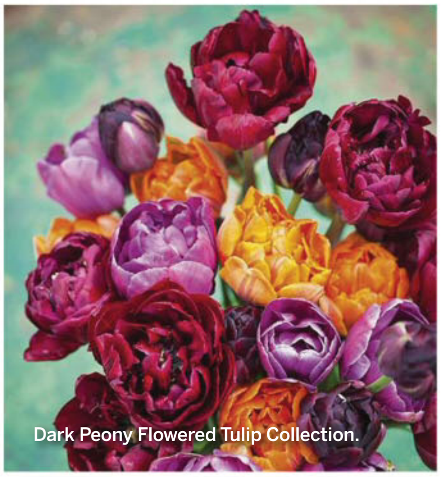
**cleevenursery.co.uk | 01934 832134**

# Reader offer

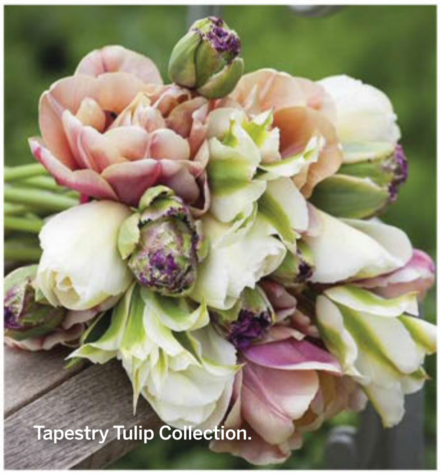
## £5 off Sarah Raven tulip collections*



Venetian Tulip Collection.



Dark Peony Flowered Tulip Collection.



Tapestry Tulip Collection.

Sarah Raven has put together her best, top-size, absolute favourite tulips in three, beautiful collections. Each collection combines colour, shape and texture to give stylish pools of colour in your garden in spring. All tulips have been trialled in Sarah's own garden at Perch Hill in East Sussex and only the best have been selected to make up these exclusive collections. *Gardens Illustrated* readers can claim £5 off their orders of all three collections*.

**Sarah's advice on planting tulips** Plant between October and December. Planting after the first frost has set avoids the risk of disease. Choose a sunny spot with well-drained soil, or add grit to the planting hole to aid drainage. Plant at 20cm deep and 8cm apart. These collections also work well in pots. Use a loam-based compost with added grit, or a peat-free, multi-purpose compost with added manure and grit.

**Venetian Tulip Collection**

One of the best tulip collections Sarah has ever planted in the garden and in pots at Perch Hill. Includes tulips 'National Velvet', 'Havran' and 'Prinses Irene' AGM.

**Flowers** mid April to May.

**Product code** 260319.

**Pack choice** 45 bulbs (15 of each) £17.95, 90 bulbs (30 of each) £32.50.

**Dark Peony Flowered Tulip Collection**

Luscious, full-petaled tulips in dazzling jewel colours, voted everyone's new favourite collection at Perch Hill. These tulips really do look like spring peonies. Includes tulips 'Antraciet' and 'Royal Acres', which flower first, closely followed by 'Black Hero' and 'Orange Princess' AGM.

**Flowers** early April to May.

**Product code** 260998.

**Pack choice** 20 bulbs (5 of each) £11.95, 40 bulbs (10 of each) £20.95.

**Tapestry Tulip Collection**

A tulip mix in soft, faded, tapestry colours, which Sarah absolutely loves. 'Purple Tower' is one of the showiest tulips you'll ever see – the centrepiece to this otherwise calm and beautiful collection. Also includes tulips 'La Belle Epoque', 'Françoise' and 'Green Star'.

**Flowers** April to May.

**Product code** 260940.

**Pack choice** 20 bulbs (5 of each) £14.50, 40 bulbs (10 of each) £27.50

**How to order** Visit **sarahraven.com** and enter offer code GIL17SEPT when placing your order, or call 0345 092 0283 and quote offer code. Bulbs sent from mid September.

**Offer valid** until 30 September 2017.

* This offer is subject to availability. Offer can be used once and not in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Previous purchases are not valid. Offer not valid at the Perch Hill shop. Standard P&P of £4.95 is payable on the order. Unfortunately, Sarah Raven is not able to send bulbs outside of the UK.

# Summer gardens to visit

*This summer, make time to visit this collection of stunning gardens and arboretums across Europe*

## 1 LOIRE VALLEY GARDENS EUROPEAN GARDEN

Possibly the best-known potager in the world, Villandry is a stunning start of your tour of the beautiful and inspiring Loire Valley gardens. Experience the Loire Valley through its gardens, food and wine, staying within a private estate surrounded by a thoughtfully designed garden in the heart of the valley of the French Kings.

Address **Moulin de Maulne, 37330**
**Lublé, Loire valley, France**
Tel **+33 (0)615503690**
Web **loire-valley-gardens.com**

## 2 FORDE ABBEY

Forde Abbey is a popular destination for families, garden lovers and historians alike. Set within 30 acres of award-winning gardens, you'll find something of interest all year round. With our stunning dahlias in September, which are in abundance in the long borders and kitchen garden, when the herbaceous planting is at its best.

Address **Forde Abbey and Gardens, Chard, Somerset TA20 4LU**
Tel **01460 221290** Web **fordeabbey.co.uk/events**

## 3 WOOLBEDING GARDENS

Visit this horticultural masterpiece just as the colours of late summer melt into the russet and gold of autumn, surrounded by the enchanting sculptures and follies of Woolbeding Gardens. Open on Thursdays and Fridays, pre-booking is essential to visit this hidden gem in West Sussex, closing 29 September.

Address **Woolbeding Gardens, Midhurst, West Sussex**
Tel **0344 2491895** Web **nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-gardens**

## 4 CLIVEDEN NATIONAL TRUST

Internationally acclaimed artist Bernar Venet is bringing a new perspective to the gardens at Cliveden, Buckinghamshire. An exciting contemporary art exhibition, consisting of ten large-scale sculptures, has been placed around the outdoor estate, challenging you to re-think the space surrounding the pieces. Venet's works will be on display until mid-October 2017.

Address **Cliveden Road, Taplow,**
**Maidenhead, Bucks,**
Tel **01628 605069**
Email **Cliveden@nationaltrust.org.uk**

## 5 BOWOOD HOUSE & GARDENS

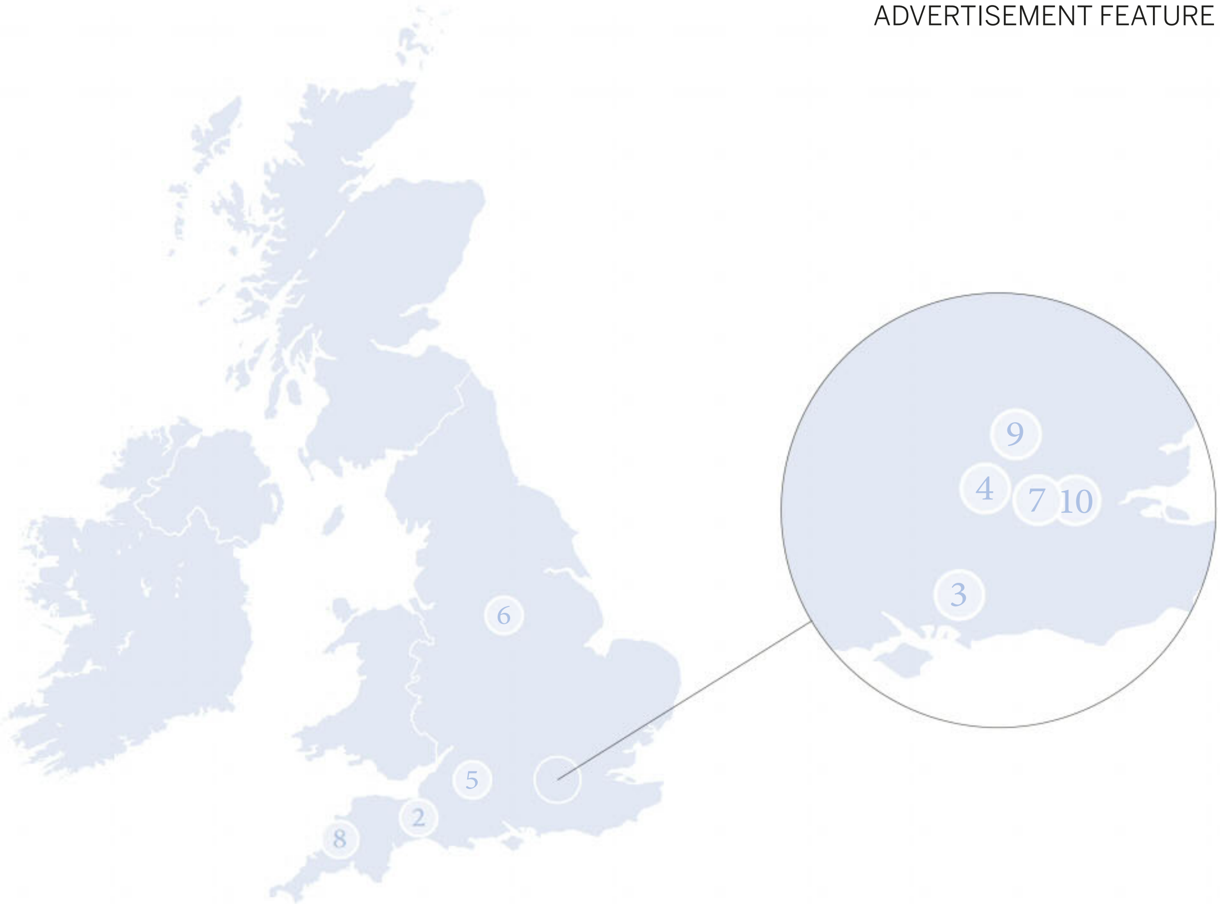
Bowood House & Gardens in Wiltshire; home to the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne. Behind the Georgian, house through a secret door, is their beautiful Walled Garden, offering guided tours throughout the season. £34 per person, includes a two course lunch in the Stables Restaurant. 2 August, 18 August, 6 September, 4 October. Quote 'Gardens Illustrated' and receive 20% off!

Address **Derry Hill, Calne,**
**Wiltshire SN11 9PQ**
Tel **01249 812102** Web **bowood.org**

## 6 HADDON HALL

Haddon Hall is probably the finest example of a fortified medieval manor house in existence. From 1 August to 30 September Haddon Hall will be filled with enchanting and engaging machines created by the imagination of the amazing artist Nik Ramage. Entrance included with any general admission ticket.

Address **The Estate Office, Haddon Hall, Bakewell, Derbyshire**
Tel **01629 812 855** Web **haddonhall.co.uk/visitor-information/**



## 7 HAM HOUSE & GARDEN

The kitchen garden at Ham House is celebrating over 300 years of English salad this summer. You are invited to see, learn about and taste the leaves, buds, roots, shoots and flowers – over 35 ingredients – that would have made up the 17th century's dining 'showstopper' – the grand salad.

Address **Ham St, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey TW10 7RS**
Tel **020 8940 1950**
Web **nationaltrust.org.uk/ham-house-and-garden**

## 8 ABBOTSBURY SUBTROPICAL GARDENS

A recent winner of the HHA/Christie's Garden of the Year Award and described by Alan Titchmarsh as 'one of the finest gardens I have ever visited'. Established in 1765 by the 1st Countess of Ilchester as a kitchen garden for her nearby castle. It has developed since into a magnificent 30-acre tropical paradise with many exotic features including a Burma Rope Bridge.

Address **Bullers Way, Abbotsbury, Dorset DT3 4LA**
Tel **01305 871387**
Web **abbotsburygardens.co.uk**

## 9 WATERPERRY GARDENS

The magnificent herbaceous border at Waterperry Gardens bursts with late-summer colour with the flowering of its Michaelmas daisies. Head to one of the specialist weekends on 16-17 and 23-24 September for expert advice and many varieties for sale. **The 2017/18 Arts, Crafts and Gardening Course brochure is now available.**

*Opening times: 10am to 5.30pm.*

Address **Waterperry, Near Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ**
Tel **01844 339226**
Web **waterperrygardens.co.uk**

## 10 OSTERLEY PARK AND HOUSE

Osterley Park and House is one of the last surviving country estates in London. This summer, don't miss the vibrant colours of the ornamental vegetable garden looking at its best.

Alternatively, enjoy a stroll around the estate, take part in our summer activities or enjoy some of our home-grown produce used in our café.

Address **Jersey Road, Isleworth, London, TW7 4RB**
Tel **020 8232 5050** Web **nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park**

## SERVICES

**STUART**
GARDEN ARCHITECTURE
MADE IN ENGLAND

01984 667458
stuartgarden.com

## PONDS

### Aquaplancton

**Voted Home and Garden "Product of the Year"**

**Pond before**

**Pond after**

Aquaplancton has been clearing ponds of blanket weed, duckweed, algae, green water, sludge, slime, odour and clogged filters, for over 20 years. People re-order time and time again which says a lot for this safe, natural remedy.

**www.aquaplancton.co.uk**
**Tel: 01298 214003**

To advertise here call **Isabel Higuero** on **0117 300 8538**

## EDUCATION

The Horticultural Correspondence College

### Gardening Courses

Home-study

- For leisure or for a career
- Over 30 courses in Gardening, Garden Design, Arboriculture, Forestry, Floristry and more
- Many courses prepare you for RHS or RFS/ABC quals.

Free info FREEPHONE 0800 083 9191 or 01409 220 777
Or email: info@hccollege.co.uk www.hccollege.co.uk

## GREENHOUSES

### GREENHOUSES

*Top brand greenhouses at factory direct prices*

The Greenhouse People

Blythe Park, Cresswell,
Stoke-On-Trent ST11 9RD

**0800 083 9631**

**for FREE brochure pack**
**www.greenhousepeople.co.uk**

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

## PRODUCTS

### WWW.EUROBULBS.CO.UK

**TOP QUALITY BULBS FOR SPRING FLOWERING**

**10 FREE PLICATUS WARHAM SNOWDROP**
WITH EVERY £50 SPENT ON BULBS AND PLANTS

| | 50 | 100 | 500 | 1000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single Snowdrops | £5.00 | £8.00 | £35.00 | £60.00 |
| Double Snowdrops | £8.50 | £14.00 | £65.00 | £110.00 |
| Elwesii Snowdrops | £17.00 | £28.00 | | |
| Aconite Hyemalis (Winter Aconite) | £8.50 | £14.00 | £65.00 | £120.00 |
| English Bluebells | £7.50 | £13.00 | £60.00 | £115.00 |
| Anemone Blanda - Mix Shades | £4.00 | £7.00 | | |
| Large Flowering Crocus - Mix | £4.50 | £8.50 | 37.50 | |
| Chiniodoxa (Glory of the Snow) | £4.00 | £7.00 | | |
| Chiniodoxa (Glory of the Snow) - White | £4.00 | £7.00 | | |
| Ornithagalum Nutans (Star of Bethlehem) | £4.00 | £7.50 | | |
| Muscari Armenicum (Grape Hyacith) | £4.50 | £8.00 | | |
| Garden Tulips - Mix Colour | £6.00 | £12.00 | | |
| Scilla Siberica - Blue | £4.00 | £7.00 | | |
| Narcissus Tête á Tête | £4.50 | £8.00 | | |
| Narcissus Thalia | £9.50 | £18.00 | | |
| Narcissus Little Gem | £6.50 | £12.50 | | |
| Narcissus Baby Moon | £6.50 | £12.50 | | |
| Narcissus Hawera | £6.50 | £12.50 | | |
| Narcissus Sun Disc | £6.50 | £12.50 | | |
| Narcissus Little Oliver | £6.50 | £12.50 | | |
| Narcissus Pseudo Lobularis (Lent Lily) | £15.00 | £28.00 | | |

Cyclamen grown and sold in 9cm pots, £6.10 per 3 pots, £17.80 per 9 pots same variety

Coum Mix Pink
Hedrifolium pink
Coum Alba
Hedrifolium Alba
Coum Silverleaf
Hedrifolium Silverleaf

Helleborous grown and sold in 9cm pots, £6.25 per 3 pots, £18.10 per 9 pots same variety

Niger
Orientalis
Lady Series

| | |
|---|---|
| Erythronium White Beauty | £17.50 per 10 |
| Erythronium Pagoda | £12.00 per 10 |

MORE VARIETIES AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

All bulbs are flowering size including FREE ones
Delivery is just £3.50 uk mainland only. Highlands and Islands £15.00
Cheque or card payments please with orders
Eurobulbs UK ltd, 314 Smeeth Road, Marshland St James, Wisbech, Cambs PE14 8EP
Tel: 01945 430009 Fax: 430303 Email: info@eurobulbs.co.uk
ALL MAJOR DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

## PRODUCTS

### Gee Tee
bulb company

Leading **flower bulb** suppliers since 1961

Request a free catalogue or visit us online...

☎ 01205 260412 www.gee-tee.co.uk

Gee Tee Bulb Company · Field Works
Common Road · Moulton Seas End · Spalding
Lincolnshire · PE12 6LF

## PRODUCTS

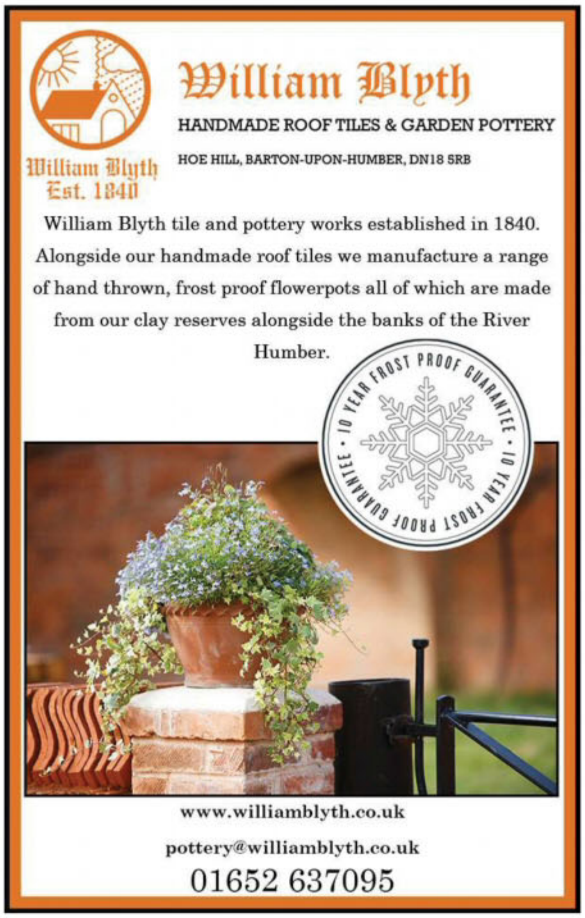
SCUMBLE GOOSIE

BESPOKE SERVICE AVAILABLE

HANDMADE FURNITURE IN SUSTAINABLE SOLID HARDWOOD

www.scumblegoosie.com 01453 731305

## POTTERY



William Blyth
HANDMADE ROOF TILES & GARDEN POTTERY
HOE HILL, BARTON-UPON-HUMBER, DN18 5RB

William Blyth Est. 1840

William Blyth tile and pottery works established in 1840. Alongside our handmade roof tiles we manufacture a range of hand thrown, frost proof flowerpots all of which are made from our clay reserves alongside the banks of the River Humber.

10 YEAR FROST PROOF GUARANTEE

www.williamblyth.co.uk
pottery@williamblyth.co.uk
01652 637095

## EVENTS & DAYS OUT

HOUSE | GARDENS | MAZE | SHOP & EAT

SCONE PALACE

THE CROWNING PLACE OF SCOTTISH KINGS

15% DISCOUNT on plants purchased when presenting this advert

- See the crowning place of Scottish Kings and the site of the Stone of Scone
- Over 100 acres of fabulous grounds featuring early summer colours, are waiting to be discovered
- 3 walks and pathways which help you explore the grounds and gardens
- Visit our Kitchen Garden, explore the Victorian Pinetum and get lost in the Murray Star Maze
- Coffee Shop, Gift Shop, Spirit & Food Shop and Plant Stand
- Guided garden tours available with Head Gardener, Brian Cunningham
- Open 1st April-31st October from 9.30am with last admission 5pm

t: 01738 552300 e: visits@scone-palace.co.uk
www.scone-palace.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT **FEATURE**

# Lifestyle Collection

1

2

10% Discount Code
SEPT
Free Delivery on orders over £40.
See website for details
3

4

5

6

### 1. ELGAR SHIRTS

Do you need an excuse to wear something long and lovely in a beautiful colour? Our robes are generously cut for men. But they look great on women too.

**elgarshirts.com** | **01422 882346**

### 2. BACKDOOR SHOES

Backdoor shoes are lightweight, waterproof and durable. Many designs available with sizes ranging from UK 3-8 for ladies and UK 8-14 for men. Prices start at £25 per pair, free postage.

**backdoorshoes.co.uk** | **01202 232357**

### 3. BESPOKE PLANT SUPPORTS

Exclusive 10% discount code: SEPT. Handmade plant supports sold direct to the public. Mild Steel and Galvanised Supports from £1.50. Curved Supports and Loop Stakes.

**bespokeplantsupports.co.uk** | **NE9 5EY**

### 4. PERILLA

75% alpaca three-quarter socks with luxurious cushioned soles and ribbed sides are the perfect companions for gardeners. Lightweight, soft and hardwearing, alpaca keeps you warmer than any other wool.

**perilla.co.uk** | **01886 853615**

### 5. BELIGHTFUL DESIGN

Do you like butterflies? Make the most of your garden or patio with this award-winning Belightful Butterfly Oasis. Designed for feeding butterflies, made of eco-friendly, recyclable material.

**belightfuldesign.com** | **+358 44 2401 353**

### 6. NICHOLAS MOSSE

Making hand-decorated earthenware since 1976. Visit our Irish Country Shop and café in County Kilkenny, Ireland or shop online.

**nicholasmosse.com** | **+353 (0)56 772 7505**

David Nieper

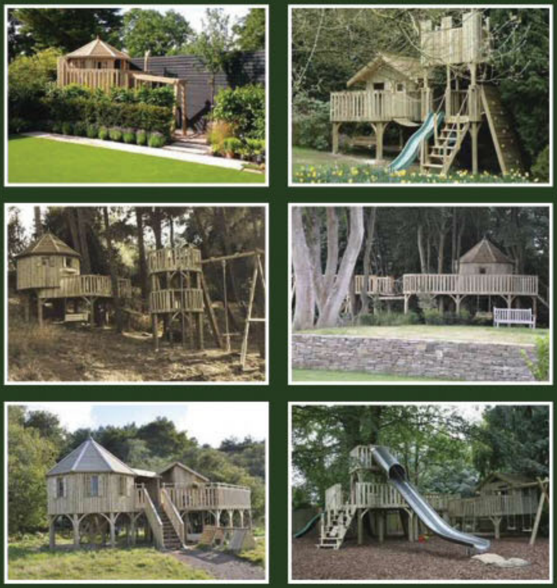
*Fine Quality Nightwear*

Designed and Made in England

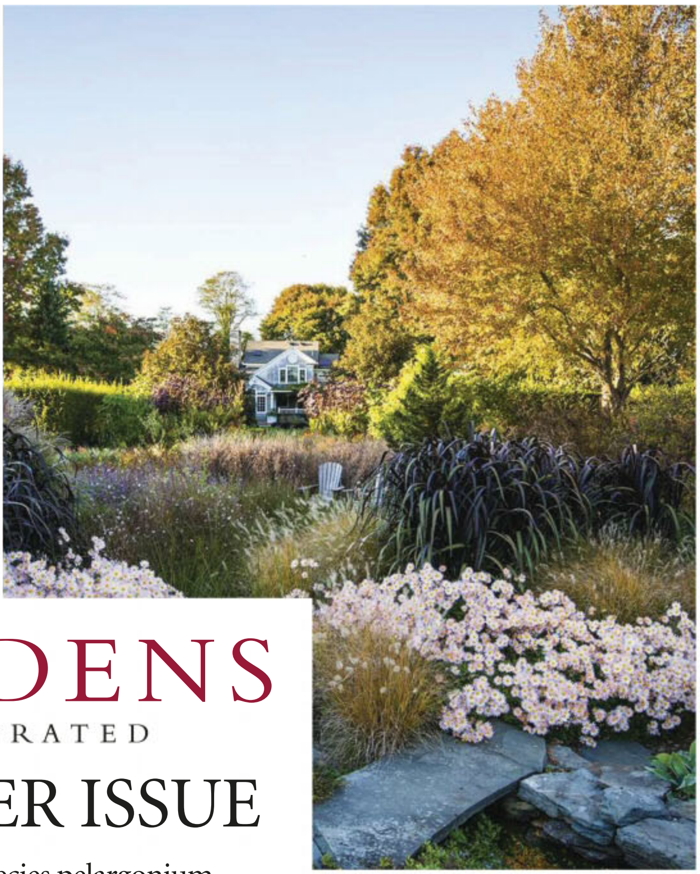
See the new collection **davidnieper.co.uk/gi17**
Call for a catalogue **01773 83 6000**

CheekyMonkey
TREE HOUSES

Bespoke design and build treehouses, playhouses and elevated platforms



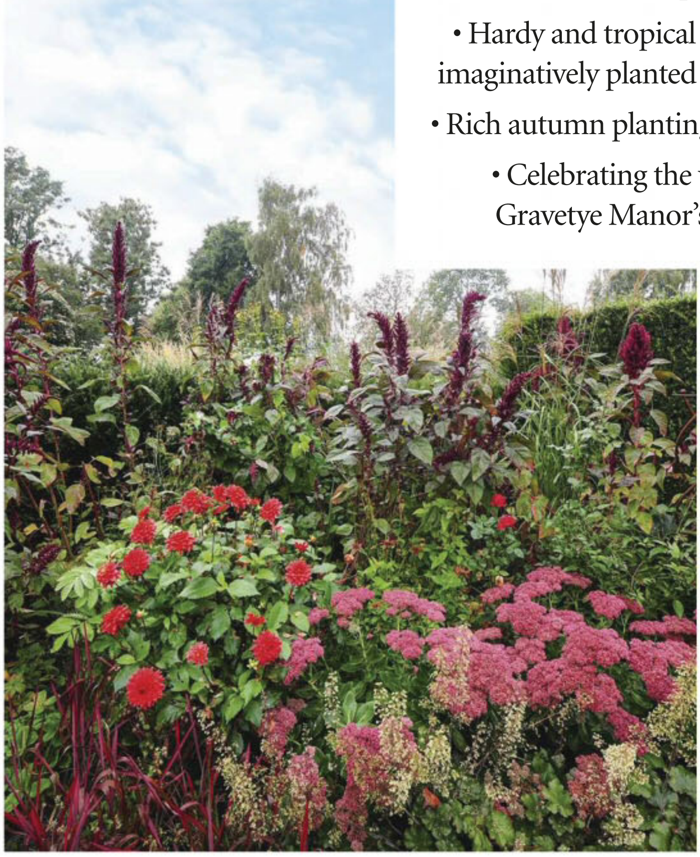
TEL: 01403 732452
www.cheekymonkeytreehouses.co.uk

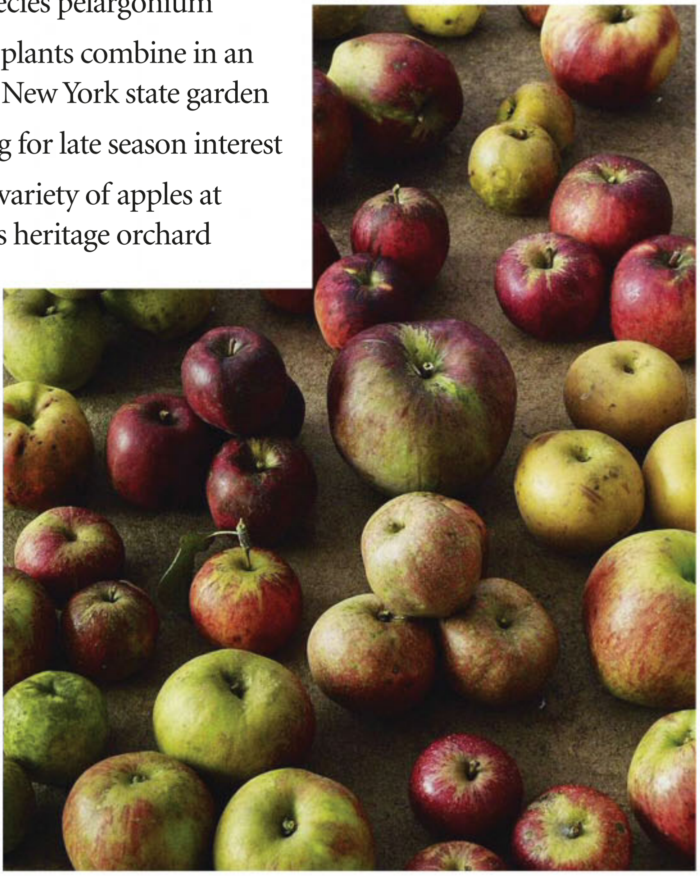


# GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

## OCTOBER ISSUE

- The allure of species pelargonium
- Hardy and tropical plants combine in an imaginatively planted New York state garden
- Rich autumn planting for late season interest
- Celebrating the variety of apples at Gravetye Manor's heritage orchard





DIANNA JAZWINSKI, CLAIRE TAKACS, MODESTE HERWIG, ANDREW MONTGOMERY

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Northern light
GARDENS

## ON SALE 14 SEPTEMBER

Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 30.
Also in selected Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco stores,
as well as WHSmith, and all good magazine retailers.

# Marginal benefits

A new books turns Frank's ideas on turf fertility upside down. Could now be the time to rethink his plans on how to breathe life back into his neglected borders?

WORDS **FRANK RONAN** ILLUSTRATION **CELIA HART**

You get a slightly worthy book for Christmas and, because you are obliged to, read it, eventually. It is not well written, but it is from your youngest and most earnest brother, so scrupulous attention has to be paid for the review that must follow. Then, just as you are despairing that you might find anything positive to say, you perceive, through the fog of the prose, a meaningful idea: one that is not only worth knowing, but might change the way you are doing things.

*I have always thought the meadow more beautiful than the border anyway*

The book, called *Grass-Fed Nation*, is an attack on modern farming methods, describing how they are destroying the soil. So far, so much preaching to the converted there. I have long avoided footpaths that cross arable land, because I get so depressed by the lifeless gunk that passes for earth where crops are grown. Assuming that the attack was about to turn on us meat-eaters, as most ecological arguments seem to, I braced myself for annoyance.

Disarmingly, the argument was not against meat, but for meat that is fed on proper pasture. Though not yet reading anything new to my way of thinking, the novelty of a green author not being vegetarian was attention grabbing. The writer is Graham Harvey, the same person whose name we hear every Sunday at the end of *The Archers* omnibus. He is the agricultural story editor. Now we know why Adam Macy has been banging on about his herbal leys and, in turn, I have a better idea what an herbal ley is, having read the book.

**Frank Ronan** is a novelist who lives and gardens in Worcestershire.

What, you may be forgiven for wondering, does any of this have to do with the garden? The answer is that he introduced an idea that is entirely new to me, which is that a thatch of grasses will improve soil fertility. We gardeners have long believed that turf is a greedy monster, which other plants must be protected from; that young trees must have a turfless metre about them and that a meadow must be impoverished to thrive.

If I noticed that a new bed from which turf had been lifted was particularly fecund, I must have put it down to the grit and manure that I was adding, and the lack of competition from weeds. These things are factors still, of course, but it never occurred to me that the grasses and other plants had been improving fertility on a microbial level, all the while that a solid carpet of vegetation was protecting the nutrients as they accumulated. We delvers like to think that all the goodness comes from our hands; and even if we know that there's more to a plant's wants than N, P and K, we don't enquire too much into what they are, because we think it is beyond our control. We like the illusion of control.

Now I am confused and my theories in disarray, looking again at my neglected borders and seeing how well, in fact, most plants have got along without my intervention. But how to resolve it? I don't want to be looking at goose grass where there should be phloxes. The phloxes, for one, can't take any competition at all and were the first to disappear in the wake of my abandonment.

The answer may be a new kind of border that is a bit more like a meadow. Not only densely planted so that no soil shows, but without the solid drifts to which we have become so aesthetically attached. A border that is actually mixed and woven. More subtle perhaps, but I have always thought the meadow more beautiful than the border anyway. My long-term plan for when I became too decrepit to garden myself was to let the borders run and have them cut down annually as though they were meadows. It is tempting to bring this plan forward in strategic sections of border, at least, as an experiment. Exciting, once you get over the shock of having been wrong about something for most of your life. ☐

gabriel ash
Tradition & Technology

Royal Horticultural Society
Sharing the best in Gardening
The only timber greenhouses
endorsed by the RHS

Traditional Cedar Greenhouses
Enhanced by Technology

MADE IN BRITAIN

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT MAKES GABRIEL ASH GREENHOUSES SO SPECIAL
CALL 01829 271 890 OR VISIT www.gabrielash.com

©The Royal Horticultural Society. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262

HARTLEY BOTANIC

NULLI SECUNDUS

HANDMADE WITH PRIDE SINCE 1938

ADMIRED. ADORED. APPRECIATED.

Victorian Grand Lodge, RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Victorian Grand Lodge, RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Hartley Planthouse 8, London

For information about our glasshouses please call 0800 783 8083 or visit www.hartley-botanic.co.uk

Royal Horticultural Society

Sharing the best in Gardening

NOTHING ELSE IS A HARTLEY

*The only aluminium glasshouses and greenhouses endorsed by the RHS*

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND

©The Royal Horticultural Society. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262